The Lee Family Papers
1742 - 1795

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THE LEE FAMILY PAPERS, 1742-1795

ROLL SIX

1 April 1779--31 December 1780

Personal, Diplomatic, and Political Correspondence

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ROLL SIX:

The documents in this roll witness the downfall of the Lees. In July 1779, William Lee was notified of the recall of his commission to the Courts of Vienna and Berlin, but he was allowed to remain in Europe. During 1780 he settled in Brussels, where he remained for three years, attempting to refound his commercial establishment. Arthur Lee lost his credentials to the French Court on 14 September, when Dr. Franklin was made sole minister there; on 26 September he lost his commission to Spain, when John Jay was given that post by Congress. From April to September 1779 Lee had devoted some time to his Spanish charge, corresponding with Count Floridablanca, the chief Spanish minister, in June and August. The need for Spain to enter the war on the American side was strongly felt in Congress, and Lee received various letters asking for information about Spain. With this prodding, he resolved to go to Madrid, but was refused the necessary funds by Dr. Franklin on 30 September, ending the project. On 4 April 1779, Richard Henry Lee wrote in cipher to Arthur that Hezikiah Ford ought to be dismissed as his secretary, as Ford was felt to be of dubious loyalty. Oblivious of this, Arthur informed Richard Henry on 27 April that Ford was returning to the United States for his health and would give him the latest information concerning the Commissioners. Lee sailed from L'Orient in July 1780 and landed at Boston in September, returning to his native land for the first time in twelve years.

Among other events of note was the "duel" between William Lee and Samuel Petrie. Petrie had insinuated in a letter to Arthur Lee of 9 April 1779 that William might be responsible for some information leaking to the British, which prompted William's challenge. After long negotiations, a meeting was arranged near Valenciennes on 3 August, where, to cap the comic opera proceedings, the men were unable to arrange a time for the fight; both departed, honor evidentally satisfied. Alexander Dick managed to get an appointment under John Paul Jones but quickly found Jones meant to be commander of his own ship. "by Heavens! I would not sail with him for all Europe," Dick exclaimed in a letter to Arthur Lee of 5 May 1779. He explained more fully on 26 May: "Capt Jones...is a brave & experienced officer, but sea officers...contract such an in sulting...behaviour that it is impossible for any Gentleman of Spirit to serve under them." Therefore he had left the Poor Richard. Items concerning Jones are scattered throughout the roll, notably concerning his victory over the Serapis in October 1779 and his quarrel with Peter Landais in June 1780. Ralph Izard, writing from the Low Countries, and James Lovell in America, appear as important correspondents with Arthur Lee.

Richard Henry Lee resigned from Congress in April 1779, despite pleas to stay (e.g., William Shippen's letter of 15 April). On 3 May he wrote Thomas Jefferson, justifying his resignation with pressing family matters, ill health, and persecution "by the united voice of toryism, peculation, faction, envy, malice, and all uncharitablness." In the same letter he attempts to justify his effort to force his tenants to pay their rents in tobacco, rather than in the inflated legal tender of the land. The maneuvers of the anti-Lee faction in Congress which led to Jay's appointment to Spain are illustrated in letters to and from Lee throughout the summer and early autumn of 1779. New regular correspondents include Henry Laurens (captured by the British in October 1780 with William Lee's "treaty" with Amsterdam, giving the British a pretext for war with Holland), James Lovell, William Whipple, and Thomas Jefferson, who became governor of Virginia in June 1779.

My Dear Sir, Nantes 1 apl 1779.

I am at a loss to know, in what Maner to act, in Regard to the Matter in dispute between B. & my Self; he has wrote Me a Second Letter in which he tells Me he shall have no Communication, with me but in writing, even when I come to paris as to writing I shall avoide at any Rate nor do I want any thing More with him, but to give Him the chastisement he so justly Merits; can I fall on no plan to give this opportunity; & not every honest Man, who will not enter in to to his Villainous connection, must be insulted, with impunity I have Recd yours of 22 March, & wish I could promise you, that I would not come to paris with honor to my Self; write Me by Return of post. I will consider of it & do nothing Rash=by I am very Respectfully D Sr yours

& Rd: Bing: his Letter: Concerning [illegible]

(No 151)

April 2. 1777

ſir

as i am oblige to go imediately to the camp i can not have the honor to ſee you and to aſk from you the favour to deliver to my the Certificat who the Comitee marine have done for my. if you would be ſo good as to deliver it to Mr dela neuville you would oblige extremely your most obedient ſervant

at philadelphia
2 april 1777

La Colombe aid de camp to the
baron de Kalb

I have the honor to inform you from the Marine Committee, that the reason why you were not charged with dispatches from Congreſs for the Marquis de La Fayette arose from its having been rendered unneceſsary by a change in the system of measures which had been spoken of previous to the departure of the Marquis, and of which change the Plenipotentiary of the U. S. at Paris was immediately informed

I have the honor &c

(No 151)

M. de Colombe
Aid de Camp to Baron de Kalb
to
R. H. Lee –
April 2d 177 8/9
His Answer appended.

Le Colombe
Marquis
yette

To the honorable mister henry
richard Lee president of the board of
comitee marine

at philadelphia

1779

Philadelphia 6th April 1779

Sir

The Honble. the Delegates of North Carolina now in Congreſs, have shewn me a Letter intended by them to be addreſsed to Your Excellency in which they display very freely, and as I apprehend very unjustifiably an instance of my conduct in that Aſsembly. "I will hear the other Party" has ever been a governing principle in my mind. No Man more convinced of the truth of this aſsertion in my own favor than the Honble. Mr. Burke. Your Excellency will believe it too when you recur to my Letter of the 27th of April 1778. I am persuaded Sir, that I shall not find Your Excellency leſs impartial.

Were I in the present moment to attempt a vindication of that part of my conduct which has given the Gentlemen offence, I should copy the bad example set by the Honble. the Subscribers of the Letter alluded to; I should join in the disclosure of a momentous subject now under deliberation which I have pledged my faith and honor to keep secret.

But admitting, as the Gentlemen allege, that I am in error, admitting that my supposed malconduct arises from "infatuation or something worse", does it follow that one State in our Union should be devoted to carnage, and the interests of the other twelve eſsentially injured because South Carolina is so unhappy as to have one of her Delegates wrongheaded or foul hearted? Can we discover no medium? To speak a little freely Sir, in my turn, these Gentlemen of North Carolina appear to be under the government of Paſsion, I will not say any thing worse. Are Men to be driven into Measures by sophistry, misrepresentation, and menaces? Could I have expected such attempts from Gentlemen whose daily and laudable boasts are, "I am accountable to my own State, and I will be governed by my own judgment."

"Fiat justicia ruat Cœlum"

"I have my own feelings and I am not answerable to any Man or set of Men but to myself and my Constituents" &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

A moments reflection Sir, I am persuaded will determine Your Excellency's "good sense" to make "such an use of the Gentlemens Letter as its importance deserves". Were I to presume to give an additional hint, it would be, to keep in Your Excellency's own breast a secret which the Gentlemen have obtrusively and unneceſsarily thurst into it. It is poſsible I may have erred in judgment. The Gentlemen in their attempt to correct the supposed error, have committed Acts which appear to me in the glare of heinous Crimes — they have attacked the freedom of debate and suffrage — they have menaced a free Citizen in order to bias his vote — they have advised the abandonment of an innocent People to the rage of a powerful and mercileſs Enemy — they have recommended Measures, which if adopted, will endanger the safety of the United States — and have they not sacraficed their sacred faith and honor to pique and resentment? — But Sir, I will disclose a secret to Your Excellency which I never promised to keep. It is a settled Plan and has been for some time past, to "Hunt me down". Were there any just cause, unjustifiable means for accomplishing the pious purpose would not be resorted to.

The "vantage ground of truth," Lord Bacon says, "is an incomparable pleasure 'tis an Hill not to be commanded, and where the air is always clear and serene", and believe me

Sir,

Sir, I do consistently with truth add, that I have seen from thence, particularly in late instances "the errors and wanderings, and Mists and Tempests, in the Vale below."

All this, if my Addreſs arrives alone, will be a riddle; if the Honble. Gentlemen shall think proper to send forward their Letter to Your Excellency, that will produce explication.

I have the honor to be
With the highest Regard and Esteem
Sir,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient & most humble Servant
(signed) Henry Laurens

His Excellency Governor Caswell

Chesnut Street 4th April 1779

Gentlemen

On the 2nd Instant a Packet was brought from the Presidents' House to mine by one of His Excellency's Servants, containing your Official Memorial without date, directed to the Delegates of South Carolina, and a Letter, also undated, directed to Governor Caswell.

After our adjournment Yesterday, and not earlier, I found leisure to take those Papers under consideration. I have attentively perused, and have Copies of them, and I have the honor of aſsuring you Gentlemen, their several contents have their "due weight" with me.

I sent those excellent performances last Evening to my Honble. Colleague, not merely for his information, because I knew he had had a foreknowledge of them, but in hopes of obtaining from him what I had a right to expect, an explicit and candid opinion on the propriety of the measure in which you have committed yourselves — but my Honble. Colleague judged it most convenient to decline hazarding an opinion, or holding a conference on the subject — with me. —

He has returned me the Official Memorial, and promised to deliver the Governor's Letter to yourselves.

I have no inducements to offer which can poſsibly "supersede the neceſsity" for sending forward the Letter, your own "good sense" will probably supply the deficiency.

In return Gentlemen for your candor in shewing me your calculations, I shall present to you under this cover, a rough Copy of a Letter, which I shall transmit to Governor Caswell tomorrow, in order to anticipate the Poison by the antidote, unleſs your intermediate conduct shall render the measure unneceſsary.

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
Your very Obedient Servant
(signed) Henry Laurens

The Honble.
John Penn, Whitmell Hill, Thomas Burke Esquires
Delegates in Congreſs from North Carolina

H. Laurens

Dear Sir

Chesnut Street Philada. 3d April 1779

(No 268.)

You will finde under cover with this, the Letter from the Delegates of North Carolina to the Delegates of South Carolina, and also their Address to Governor Caswell respecting & animadverting on my conduct in Congress. You had some knowledge of these Letters before we read them Yesterday Morning, therefore I request you will honor me with an explicit and candid opinion on the propriety of the Measure which North Carolina has adopted on this occasion — if you Sir approve of their proceeding I shall be glad of a conference with you on the important subjects alluded to.

I am open to conviction, and will change my late sentiments when reasons shall be offered outweighing those which influenced the vote on my part which has given offence to the Representatives of a neighbouring State.

As the first mentioned Letter altho directed to us jointly, respects only myself, you will be pleased to return it to me when you shall have again perused it — the other Letter you will send or deliver to the Gentlemen of North Carolina, or enable me to do so, by transmitting it to, Sir,

Your most Obedient Humble Servant

(signed) Henry Laurens

The Honble William Henry Drayton Esqr

392 [illegible] 4

Sir

Philadelphia April 4th 1779

Your Letter of Yesterday was delivered to me too late last Night to be considered and answered before this Morning. You do me the honor to request my explici opinion on the propriety of the Measures which North Carolina has adopted in consequen vote in the affair of the Fishery: but, as the subject is new, of high importance, and you ar able to form a judgment, I beg leave to decline giving an opinion, which there is no necessity I sh hazard.

As to a change of your late sentiments upon the ——— I cannot presume to expect it from any thing I can say. The subject was so fully handled in Congress that there is nothing new to be said upon it: and it was with concern that I found the arguments in the negative, did not, with you, outweigh those reasons which influenced you to support the affirmative. I return the Letter to us jointly as you desire. I shall to the Delegates of North Carolina present the Copy of their Letter to their Governor. And, I beg leave to add, that Yesterday I answered on my part the Official Memorial, ardently requesting that the Delegates of North Carolina would not send their intended Letter to their Governor; and assuring them that South Carolina when attacked, as she now is, absolutely stands in need of the sisterly aid of North Carolina, and that in a powerful degree.

I Am Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Servant

(signed) W. H. Drayton

The Honble.
Henry Laurens Esquire

Chesnut Street, 4th April 1779

Sir

In the moment your Letter of this Morning was brought to my House, I was going abroad, the moment of my return I sit down to make a proper acknowledgment of the receipt.

In my Address of last Night I requested you would honor me with explicitude and candor in your answer. You are pleased to give a preference to illusion and ambiguity. You have declined giving an opinion, or holding a conference; which evinces that you not only vote" but act "systematically"; here you have drawn a line between us — henceforward I will neither receive from you, nor trouble you with a Letter of controversy, but I will never with hold my voice in confirmation of any motion of yours in Congress, nor my utmost support to your measures out of doors, where we may be jointly concerned, which shall appear to be conducive to Public good.

You have "on your own part ardently requested the Delegates of North Carolina not to send their Letter to their Governor," from an assurance that "South Carolina absolutely stands in need of the sisterly aid" of her Northern Neighbour. These Gentlemen have expressed sentiments which seem to be diametrically opposite to your assurances, and they have made the conduct of the Delegates of South Carolina the sine qua non of their own.

Did the measures adopted by the Gentlemen of North Carolina point, in your view Sir, to no higher an object than aid to a sister State, which it is neither in their power to direct or restrain? Were you less affected by an attempt of violence upon the suffrages of free Citizens, as well as upon the honor of all these Independent States than you were by groundless apprehensions for his interests to your own? Do you think Sir, that your ardent requests can lull the reso- from him those Gentlemen, or warp their inclinations from the pursuit of a duty which they hold measurably necessary? Did not you feel a little for the breach of plighted faith and honor to our secret, deliberations upon a point, the disclosure of which may dash our infant Independence against the Stones? Or did you think me blind? Think, speak, and act Sir, as you shall judge most convenient. I shall persevere in acting in all respects with propriety towards you, with diligence and fidelity in the common Cause of America, and with the most inviolable attachment to that State whose particular Servant I am.

I have the honor to be, Sir

Comprehending all proper Ceremonies
Your faithful Colleague
(signed) Henry Laurens

The Honble. Wm. H. Drayton Esqr.

On board the Belle Poule, Brest Road april 3d 1779

Dear Sir

I have this moment received a reply from Mr Champion, to the letter which I Shewed you a copy you have herewith, and which I please my self will give you Satisfaction if you remember I requested him not only to Send me but also Mr Yzard a certificate to clear me from Imputation and which you will observe he intended to do by the Next Mail so that you may depend upon Seeing it in the hands of our Mutual friend at paris

I arrived here the 28 ulto you two Ships the Genl Washington and Capt Benlson from Nantes, and the fleet from the Isle Dieu Came into the harbour yesterday - our convoy will consist of five Sail of the line; besides fregates commanded by Monsr La Mothe piquet who is destined with them to the West Indies and will have under his protection (besides the American Vessels) a considerable number of transports the Admiral has made his Signal to prepare for Sailing and he has informed me that he Should proceed to Sea, if the wind permitted the day after to Morrow Be assured that I shall be always glad to hear of your health and happiness adieu

Sincerely Yours
Signed John Lloyd

Dear Sir
above is a true copy of a letter
from Mr Lloyd
M Livingston

99 a XVII April 4. 1779.

The 179 b XVIII of 393 a XXX in 208 a XXXVII s us that 167 a I your 230 b XIII is a 56 b XXXI 234 b XXV.

Such are the 261 b X s entertained of 167 a I in that 354 a XXXVI that it is by no means 295 a XII he should 102 b VI 423 a XXVI you any longer.

He is said to be an artful man, that he has imposed on many where he was not unknown, and therefore it is not to be wondered that he has succeeded where he was a stranger and where there were no means of discovering him, and as he has documents with him of former services which might naturally lead to an opinion that he was a 179 a XVII 234 b XXV.

455 b XXI 455 a XXV 225 a V.

M. holker Presents his Compliments to the honourable Colonel Lee; & begs leave to observe to him, that it is very essential for the Interest of the proprietors of the Money which he has taken the Liberty of proffering as a Loan to Congreſs, that M. holker Should know wether his proposals is, or is not acceptable, So as he Might immediately dispose of the Money in Some Manner or other. He hopes Mr. Lee will take the Matter into Serious Consideration, & will please to draw up his Report in Consequence if any thing is to be done to retrieve Lost time, every Minute is of the greatest Importance for the publick of America.

munday ye 5th April 1779./

The
honorable Colonel Lee,
member of Congreſs
at Mr. Moore's.

5 April 1779
Holker

Mr. Roſs Compliments waits on the Honble. Arthur Lee, and beg the favour to be informed, if Mr. William Lee his Brother has left an Answer to the Letter, which Mr. Roſs commited Sometime since, to the Honble. A. Lee to be directed & forwarded.

Hotel de Valois.
Rue Richlieu
Wednesday 6th. April 1779.

Mr. Roſs Sent a porter out to Chaliote last Saturday, with a letter he brought from Nantes for Mr. Lee hope he received it. Mr. Roſs did not know untill to day, that Mr. Lee had moved to Town about 6 April 79

Mr. Ross beg leave to return the Honble. A Lee's Compliments—

Sorry he cannot do himself the honor to dine to morrow with Mr. Lee, being pretty much hurryd in dispatching some vessels which he expects to get ready to join the Convoy— Mr. Ross will wait on Mr. Lee before he leaves town,

Sunday Evening

Sir —

We had no Intention or Expectation of entering into a Correspondence with the Delegates of South Carolina, individually, when we officially laid before them our thoughts and purposes relative to a certain Measure depending before Congress; — which seemed greatly to depend on your Vote, and from the manner in which you gave it, on an Interlocutary Motion, threatened, in our opinion, distressing Evils to those parts of the Continent which are not secured by internal Strength and inaccessible Situation; and which, for that reason, threatened the State we represent with very Interesting and dangerous Delemmas.

We are sorry to find that your honorable Collegue and you do not harmonize in this business; and that, instead of your Joint answer, we are to receive only Seperate letters which convey very different — Sentiments. What for knowledge your honorable Collegue may have had of our Measure we know not. but we assure you it was the result of mature thinking, and of our own Judgements only.

We return you our thanks, Sir, for inclosing to us the Copy of your Intended letter to Governor Caswell. the rather as it affords us an Opportunity of attempting to remove some mistaken Opinions which you have therein advanced.

We meant not, Sir, to Condemn, or even Censure your Conduct. We saw you Vote for making a very extensive claim of a right of Fishing, an Ultimatum on a treaty of peace, even tho' our allies should be in no Condition to give us assistance; and we could not reconcile this Vote, given by a Delegate from a State which has hitherto been Considered as a very rich and alluring object to the Enemy, but unable to make any Effectual Efforts for her own defence, and which appears but too probably to have of late engaged the Enemy's most hostile Intentions, we say, Sir we could not reconcile this vote on any other presumption, than what we have suggested in our memorial. —

Our view, in that Memorial, was not, as you Suggest to Governor Caswell, to "attack the freedom of debate and suffrage, to menace a free Citizen in order to bias, ~~his vote~~ but to inform the Delegates of South Carolina, that the presumption of exertions to be made by the State we represent is mistaken; and, if it had any Influence in Causing you to vote

for

for an object, as an ultimatum, which we all deem highly important, but not absolutely Neceſsary, to remove all grounds for such Influence: relying on your Candor, we doubted not, that if your Vote was founded, in any degree, on such presumption, you would retract it on the information we gave; and we preferred giving you this information Officially, and in writing, that it might form a proper and honorable Ground for your change of Opinion, as well as a Justification for ourselves. We cannot understand this to be a Menace; and we beg leave to aſsure you, we are incapable of such Motives as you aſsign — and clear in our Opinion, that threats would be very ineffectually applied to you. Should we see you persist in the vote, after the information we gave, we should conclude you to be determined by the Idea you have, of adequate force in South Carolina; and in that event, intended to send forward the letter to the Governor of our State; believing it our duty, to Spare the Exertions of our People as much as poſsible.

We hope we have not misrepresented: we certainly have no such Intentions: nor, do we conceive, that our Conduct, on the present occasion, is contrary to our declared Maxims, which we some times use in debate.

The measures we recommend, cannot have the effect of "our abandonment of an Innocent People, or "endangering the Safety of the United States": if the Strength and resources of South Carolina be such, as to warrant her Delegates to vote for a continuance of the War, without allies, for an object, not absolutely neceſsary to the whole, and but remotely, if at all interesting to her, and such Strength and resources make the efforts of other States, which are made with great difficulty, unneceſsary in her present Situation. We may attribute too much to your opinion; but we think ourselves Justifiable, from your eminent Character for experience, Industry and Intimate knowledge of your Country, in relying on it, so far as to induce the Measures we propose.

The public Secret, which you allude to, is kept on our part. In the event, that the Fishery Claim shall be made an Ultimatum, even without allies, we shall feel ourselves under a Tie to our Country, superior to any which Congreſs can lay us under, and, foreseeing from it nothing but desolation, or absolute Submiſsion, we shall follow the example of some other Gentlemen, who declare, they will hold themselves bound to lay the matter before the State they represent.

The

The Secret, of a Plan to hunt you down, is utterly unknown to us, and we hope you are Mistaken. we cannot deem any Individual amongst our Body, so dangerous, as to be the object of a Justifiable Combination. nor do we know any one, of Importance Sufficient, so much to engage our Efforts and attention. and, we wish you to do us the Justice to believe, we are incapable of so unworthy a measure.

The Paragraph in your letter, begining with the quotation from Lord Bacon, is too figurative, and mysterious for our Comprehension.

We are sorry you deem us under the Influence of Passion, or that we feel any pique or resentment against you. permit us to assure you, that, in both, you are mistaken. We are Sensible of no personal Injury from you, and have therefore nothing to resent. we cannot persuade ourselves that you are conscious of having ever designed an ill office to us, and suppose the word resentment was a Slip of your pen. We have not observed in you any thing unfriendly, or disrespectful to us; and know of no pique or Cause for one to exist.

The manner in which we address you, notwithstanding the asperity of some expressions in your Letter to Governor Caswell, applied to us, may, sufficiently, convince you of our good temper. we attribute those asperities to the mistaken Sense in which you understand our Memorial, and, therefore, excuse them.

In truth, Sir, the Importance of the object, and its peculiar Consequence to our own particular State, were the only Considerations that moved us to address our Memorial to the Delegates of South Carolina, and, we expected to inform but not Menace thereby.

The Letter to the Governor Contains sentiments, which we now entertain Hypothetically, and which will be established, or removed by the event of the Question before Congress, and the votes thereon.

We are much concerned that you have so widely mistaken us; but we Shall be much more so, if your vote shall fix as an Ultimatum those Extensive Claims to Fishing Contended for by the Eastern States.

We leave the Subject entirely to your own good Sense, and Cool, dispassionate reflection.

Having the honor to be with due respect
Your obed.t Servants
John Penn
Whitmell Hill
Thos Burke

Philadelphia April 8th 1779.

Honble Henry Laurens Esqr. —

Not examined for want of time but I believe there is no error I mean the Copyist says he is not conscious of error —

My dear Friend 6 in S. Lt. - (No 292) April 8 1779

I received your favor of the 27th March this day by post for which I am obliged to you and the piece of Common Sense against Deane will come out in Purdie's paper. I was afraid I could not get Clarkson to print it but with a good deal of persuasion he at length agreed to it. the other of Davies piece against Drayton will come out in Dixon's next Week; I took a trip a last Week to Westmoreland and stay'd at home & returned on Monday night when I got your letter including the paper containing that and the other with Braxton's Letter, Dixon refused since he had not room to put it in this Weeks paper; but promises it shall come out in the next paper to Braxton's Letter, I have prefaced them and shall insist on the Printers publishing them as they stand in the Pennsylvania paper and am pleased to observe that my Observations correspond in every part exactly with yours. I am afraid I shall have some difficulty to get them printed, but am determined to have it done, if possible it appears to me absolutely necessary that the Eyes of the public should be opened with respect to that Man; Would you suppose that He and Beverley have made a formal Application to the Executive to permit their Sons with Jack Power to go to New York with the Flag now here and from thence they are to go to London and as Braxton says his Son is to go from London to Amsterdam; but Beverley is more open. His design, he avows to be, to send his Son to England for his Education, and I have no no doubt Braxton has the same Intention tho' he does not own it. The Executive have absolutely refused it.

I dare say you will be surprised to hear that Colo. Baylor whilst he was Prisoner in New York purchased a large quantity of Household furniture which he was to pay for in flour to be sent to New York, his Goods came in the flag from thence and he sent his Brother a few days ago to ask permission of the Governor and Council ~~to permit~~ for his Baggage to be landed, which was granted him, but on Colo. Muters sending an Invoice of the Goods to the Governor and the discovery of the kind of Goods being made that Permission was countermanded and the Goods ordered back; What a strange Weakness! ~~or~~ something else must there have been in that Gentleman, I can hardly suppose it worse than Weakness, the allowing those things to be landed would have raised great Complaints in the Country.

I am greatly afraid the Convention Troops being stationed in this Commonwealth will be of dangerous Consequence to the State. Our Citizens want Virtue they are constantly inviting the Officers to their houses a considerable distance from their Barracks and they are treated with the utmost defference and respect; Nay they are permitted to go to Petersburg & Richmond to Races and Balls ~~[illegible]~~ Harvey has even given some of them a passport to go down to Hampton with out the Knowledge of the Executive and Officers of the Line and in the Artilery are suffered to go through the Country

making

their Observations. I was told by a Gentleman since I came down last that some of the Officers who had a passport to go down for the Specie sent for the Troops were very attentive in this Town, viewing all the Streets and parts of the Town. this surely is very imprudent. I wish from my soul they were removed, for our ple people have full little Virtue already & I am sure keeping Company with those officers will make them have less. Their Porter, their Cheese — Wine & finery which I understand they have plenty of will compleatly destroy all the little Virtue the James River people have left.

I have never got your letter with the pieces written by Common Sense which you sent to Chantilly as you tell me in your last. they were not sent to my house for I enquired when I was up & I never thought to send to Chantilly as I imagined had they have come that way Mr. Lee would have sent them to my house & I expected they had miscarried at some of the post offices I wish I could get them they should certainly be published — you will please to observe I shall not be in Town after the next post day & I will expect to receive your favors after that time in Westmoreland.

I am my dear Sir

Yours most affectionately

Richd. Parker

Wmsbg April 8th. 1779

A°

Richard Parker.
April 8th 79
~~No 356~~
(N° 292)

Letter
Richard Parker
to
Richd Henry Lee

~~N° 356~~

Philadelphia 9th April 1779

Dear Sir

I have perused the extracts of Letters written by Messrs Loyd Stephenson & Thornton dated ye 22. 24th of January 1st & 20th of Feby I am surprised to find Sentiments ascribed to you so different from those I have heard you deliver in social parties, when the subject was mentioned, which happened frequently during your stay at Nantes, & on the passage in the Ship Deane, from that Port to America,

I well remember that you allways spoke with warmth & resentment of Mr. Deanes personal Illtreatment of yourself but made a distinction between his publick & private =

Conduct & altho' you did not appear to give your approbation of the former, you readily admitted that he had more merrit in the transaction of Publick buſineſs than the other Commiſsioners. I also noticed that you both at Nantes & on Shipboard in the presence of Mr. Stevenson ridiculed & blamed with the greatest freedom the conduct of the Mr. Lee's on many occa= =sions, these are things so well known to a number of Gentlemen both in France & America, that I am of opinion few will believe that you approved of yr. conduct of =

these Gentlemen at the time mentioned in yr: extracts, which I now return you.

I am happy to have an opportunity of giving you the opinion you requested of me, & shall be at all times ready to shew that I am with the greatest esteem —

Your friend &
Humble Servt: —
Henry Newman

Letter from Henry Kew
to William Carmichael
Philadelphia 9th April 17

Inclosed in Mr Carmich
information delivered
May 3. 1779

(Nº 288)

April 9th 1779 –

Sir,

In compliance with your Request, in your Letter of yesterday, to be explicit, I now inform you, — that I do not recollect, ever showing any Letter to Mr Deane, that I thought had any Referance to you; — but I well remember, reading to him a Paragraph out of a Letter, which I had received from London, stating, that Intelligence of the Signing of the Treaty with France, had been transmitted there, the very Night on which it was sign'd, express'd in Terms, which cou'd not have been misunderstood, & which Intelligence, from a Concurrence of Circumstances, appear'd to have been communicated by your Brother, the Alderman. – Of this Fact, I cannot suppose you ignorant. —

When I show'd this Letter to Mr Deane, I meant only jocularly to upbraid his Secrecy, Respecting a Transaction, which I understood your Brother, had unreservedly communicated

Several

several Weeks before; - but I had no Idea of bringing Censure upon any Person whatever.

I am confident no Friend of mine *pretends*, or ever did pretend, to have seen any Letter, which he did not see; - & the particulars of the Fact, to which your Letter alludes, as far as my Knowledge goes, you would have received as explicitly from me, upon a personal application, as you now do, in the formal Mode of a Reply, to a written Requisition.

I have the honour to be
Sr.
Yr. most obt. Servt.
J. Petrie.

Paris.
Rue Ste. Anne.
Friday Morng.
April 9.. 1779.

Arthur Lee Esqr.

Copy of my Answer

Sir/ April 9th. 1779

I had the honor of receiving your Answer of this day to mine of yesterday. It is entirely satisfactory as to myself. But I cannot help believing your Correspondent was mistaken in gathering from circumstances that my Brother was the writer of such a Letter, because I did not inform him that the Treaty was signed, till long after, & I am most sure he did not know it at the time he is supposd to have given the intelligence.

I am oblig'd to you Sir, for the readiness with which you have given this satisfaction; & beg you will believe it was with much regret I gave you this trouble. I have the honor &a

A. Lee

S. Petrie to A. Lee
April 9th 1779

A. Lee's Answer
Same day.

(No 288)

Petrie
on
Deanes Charge

1779

L'Orient April 10th 1779

(No 289)

Dear Sir

I have received your agreeable Letter, it gives me pleasure to find you interest yourself in my health; I hope you are entirely recovered of your late indisposition, & sincerely wish you may long [illegible] in health & happiness; I delivered your Letter's to Mr. Brookes, I need not tell you he will take particular care of them, as you are acquainted with him; he sailed in the General Washington.

I am much obliged to you for the caution you give me, I was aware of the consequences that might happen, & hope I have taken every precaution necessary. it is impossible my countrymen can blame me, I have not resigned my Commission & am still serving them on board a continental Ship; I have suffered a long & painfull imprisonment; I came from America

Alexr. Dick to A. Lee

(No 289)

(10: April 1779.)

a Young & unexsperienced Officer by the service I shall see in the course of the ensuing Year, I hope to gain my Countrymens approbation & deserve their Favour.

Be pleased to give my Compliments to your nephew & my Revd. friend; I am Dear Sir with the greatest respect

Your most Obedient Servt.

Alexr. Dick

as ſoon as I receive it, it
will be forwarded to Mr Lee
to whom my best Compliments

february 11th

[illegible] Mr Shantain April ye 12th 1779 or '80

(No 293)

My Dr Friend

I have just received your letter by the Boy but must beg leave to differ from you in the main argument of it, for I confess that both as a Soldier and a Politician, I think the only time for a redress of grievances, is the time of war, and I believe that no instance can be produced from history of a People who have waited for the time of Peace, ever obtaining any redress at all. Rustici expectant dum defluat amnis — such I am sure was the persuasion of those glorious Men who withstood the tyranny of Charles ye 1st, and on that persuasion they regulated their conduct. But I will venture to go farther (you will perhaps think too far) I think that America had better be conquered, at least in that degree She can now only be conquered, that is that She had better be reduced to the necessity of accepting the terms which it is said G Britain means to propose, than to endure any longer such an odious tyranny as the capricious arbitrary government as an unlimited uncontrolable Assembly besides the War is now worn down to so diminish'd a size and quality, that no danger can possibly be incurr'd from insisting immediately on the remedy.

Your favourite Junius says, after Lock, that there cannot be a more ~~[illegible]~~ fatal doctrine to Liberty establish'd than the omnipotence of Parliament – and this doctrine is certainly still less dangerous in G Britain where the Parliament consists of three distinct branches, than in America where it consists of one one, for from the constitution of the Senate, (as it is ridiculously call'd) they must be made up of the self-same clay – for God's sake then do not talk of Liberty until you have establish'd the fundamental points, the limitation of the power of the Assembly and ~~the~~ full freedom of the Press unless these points are settled, every liberal understanding Man will think the word liberty ~~a~~ ~~[illegible]~~ (so sounded in our ears) a mere mockery; and will be very indifferent to the issue of the war — You say that there must be some abuses in all human systems of free Government, and you allow that ours abounds with em — but are not ours something more than abuses and incompatible not only with free government but any human Society at all? are they not rather the more damned acts of atrocious tyranny, crying injustice and flagitious violence? for instance the tender, the confiscation law which strips of their property (for no crime even pretended,) indiscriminately Tories and Whigs friends and foes Men Women and Children — to this may be added the taking from the Clergy their ~~[illegible]~~ freeholds which was certainly as lawfully theirs as yours or mine — such are the abuses which America

free system has ~~already~~ been ornamented with
in so short ~~of~~ a period as four years self-government
abuses transcending ~~all the great~~ enormities of
all the worst Governments of Europe in four times that
length of period — and I repeat therefore that no
consideration on earth ought to deter us from putting
some immediate restraints on the Powers of Men who
have been guilty of such accumulated villainy — I have
spoken freely to you and I think I have as good a right
to speak ~~so~~ freely to America in the common cause
of Mankind, as I had to the British Ministry and
generally in the particular cause of America —
I have call'd it a common cause of Mankind
because if really a free government should
be establish'd here, it might be the general asylum
my paper is now out and it is very late
[illegible] good night, and God bless you

Yours — C Lee

(No 294)

Mannsfield April 13th 1779

My dear Sir

I now trouble you with a Letter only to acknowledge the Receipt of your Favour of the 6th, & to let you see that I am not ungrateful for your several favours of that Sort; for we have nothing new in our Part of the Country. All is still & quiet, except the Bustle which the busy Sons of Avarice make in their Pursuits. An universal Thirst after Riches has seized upon all Ranks of People, and public Virtue seems to be rooted from their Breasts by that sordid Passion. In what it will end God only knows; may he inspire you with Wisdom to find out some Remedy for the Evil.

I am pleased to hear that the Enemy will not be able to attempt any thing capital this Campaign. By the small War, tho' they may distress us, yet they must waste what little Strength they have left. Hitherto it has not been very successful, & I hope their future Expeditions may be as disasterous as Clinton's up the Sound has been. I expect your Brother will have left you on his Return to Virga. before this reaches you, otherwise I would write a few Lines to him; if he is still with you offer my Love to him & Mrs. Lee. I am, dear Sir, with much Esteem

Your affectionate Friend

Mann Page Junr.

I wish you would try to make Dunlap send me his Paper, please to advance the Money for it, which I will repay with many Thanks. -

(No. 294)

No. 366

1779.
April 13. 1779
Mann Page Jun.r Esq.r
[~~No 366~~.]
[No. 294]

Richard Henry Lee Esquire
in Congreſs
Philadelphia

2/6/1000000
500000

On board the Belle Poule Brest Road April 15th 1779

Dear Sir

I have this moment received your letter of the 9th Inst, with two enclosed for America, which I shall take care of, and forward on my arrival agreeable to your request — Monsieur Berubé de Constantin has sent off to me two Letters under the same address; as I imagine they are duplicates of those which I have, I shall send them on board a fast sailing Schooner commanded by Captn Benson bound direct to Philadelphia. They will be intrusted to the care of a Captn York a passenger, with whom I am acquainted, and have a confidance in his integrity — I observe the discovery you have made in consequence of an intercepted letter from Deane to Bancroft —

Please to let my friend Mr Izard know, that almost immediately after I had dispatched my last letter to him, the Wind came again contrary and the Admiral made the Signal to moor. It continues unfavourable, which makes me a little impatient —

Mrs Lloyd joins with the Messrs. Blakes and myself in thanks for your kind wishes and friendly remembrance — I am sorry that you had no agreeable news to transmit me —

Adieu Dear Sir

Most Sincerely Yours

John Lloyd

Letter Book N.6 p. 14.

A M. M. Necker Comptroller general des Finances

Sir/ Paris April 15th 1779

I had the honor of receiving your Letter of this day's date, containing an order for repaying the duties collected upon the Sabres &c, sent from Strasbourg to Nantes, & informing me that the engagement for paying the Duties demandable upon the export of the Artillery & Munitions of war, granted by his Majesty for the State of Virginia, cannot be given up.

I beg Sir, you will believe, that it is with infinite regret, I trouble you again upon the subject. But it is an act of inevitable necessity. I have not money to pay the Duties engaged for, nor in the present situation of things is it possible for me to say when any funds will arrive to answer the demand. The difficulties of finding Sailors for merchant Ships in Virginia are very great; & hitherto where these have been overcome, the Tobacco has unfortunately fallen into the Enemy's hands.

It is far from being the disposition of any of the United States, to distress their friends, or press for favors. But in our actual situation, we must either deliver ourselves up unarmed to be massacred by our mercileſs Enemies, or obtain the neceſsary means of defence by indulgence which the singular situation of our Affairs alone induces us to ask.

The engagement entered into by my Merchant was unknown to me, till the Articles were shipt & the Veſsel ready to sail. He did it in full confidence, that I should obtain a remiſsion of the Duties. Indeed there was no alternative but obtaining this remiſsion, or stopping the Supplies & undoing all that had been done.

I did understand from the Letter I had the honor of receiving from you, on ye 24th of Decr. last, that the exemption then granted on the Sabres, was not to be drawn into a claim of such exemption in future. But that it should operate to preclude all the other Articles of the same Supply, for the same purpose, & where exactly the same neceſsity for asking an exemption existed, did not then strike me. Nor did I then know, that there were any Duties demandable on the export of braſs Cannon &c; especially coming from the royal Arsenals.

Under these circumstances, Sir, I am obliged to beg you will have the goodneſs to revise the resolution you have done me the honor to send me. I am extremely sorry to add this troublesome

request to the thanks which are due for what you have already granted; nor can any thing be more mortifying than the necessity which compels it.

True Copy Compar'd I have the honor &c

A. Gillon signed A. Lee.

Answer

Paris ce 26 Avril 1779

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la nouvelle Lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 15 de ce mois relativement aux pieces d'Artillerie, Bombes & Boulets, que le Roi a bien voulu fournir a l'Etat de la Virginie, et qui ont été expediés par Nantes. D'après le detail dans lequel vous voulez bien entrer, je donne ordre aux Fermiers generaux de faire annuller la soumission passée par M.M. Schweighauser. Mais je vous prie de vouloir bien observer qu'il ne seroit pas possible de renouveller une pareille faveur, sans porter atteinte aux Régles.

J'ai l'honneur &c

signé Necker

A M. Arthur Lee

True Copy Compar'd

A. Gillon

Translation

Paris the 26th of April 1779

I have received, Sir, the letter you did

me the honor of writing me the 15th of
this month, relative to the Artillery Bombs
& Balls which the King has been so good
as to furnish to the State of Virginia &
which have been shipt at Nantes. After
the explanation you have made, I give
orders to the Farmers general to annul
the Security given by Mr. Schweighauser.
But I beg you will be so good as to ob-
serve that a similar favor cannot be
granted consistent with the Laws.

I have the honor to be &c

signed Necker

Mr. Arthur Lee

No. 4
Letter from Mr. Necker his
Majesty's Comptroller general
dated April 15th 1779
My Answer April 15 1779
His Reply dated April 26. 1779

(N° 290) Paris ce 15. avril 1779.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, les deux Lettres que vous m'avés fait l'honneur de m'écrire les 16. et 30. du mois dernier. Vous y rappellés les ordres que j'ai précédemment donnés pour faire jouir de l'exemption de tous droits une partie de Sabres, pioches, béches et haches portées de Strasbourg à Nantes pour passer à la Virginie, et vous en réclamés l'exécution. Vous demandés en même tems la décharge de la soumission que les Préposés des fermes à Nantes ont exigé relativement à des droits considérables qu'ils veulent faire payer à l'exportation de différents canons, mortiers, bombes, boulets et autres semblables munitions de guerre que le Roi a bien voulu fournir à l'Etat de Virginie.

Je joins à ma Lettre de ce jour les ordres

M. Arthur Lée . rue Guenegaud Hotel d'Espagne de remboursement des Sommes payées sur l'envoi d'armes blanches et autres ustenciles fait de Strasbourg à Nantes. Quant au deux.e objet, j'ai eu l'honneur de vous prévenir, le 24. août dernier, que cette exemption etoit une grace qui devoit être unique. Vous avés vu que cette restriction etoit fondée sur les principes admis à cet egard, et que le Roi lui-même s'est soumis à acquitter les droits pour les effets destinés à son usage et à son service. Je regrette beaucoup que ces motifs ne me permettent pas de faire annuller la soumission dont il s'agit.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec un très parfait attachement, Monsieur, Votre très humble et très obéissant Serviteur

Necker

19tt, 17, 8
2988tt, 17, 8
1642tt, 18, 3
134tt, 14,

4786tt, 7, 7 Total ordered to be refunded.

M. Necker to A. Lee.
15th April 1779.

(No 290)

(~~No 290~~)

No. 295.

1779

(N° 291) Paris le 15 Avril 1779

J'ai reçu Monsieur, les deux lettres que vous m
fait l'honneur de m'écrire les 16 et 30 du mois dernier. Vous
rappellés les ordres que j'ai précédemment donné pour f
jouir de l'exemption de tous droits une partie des Sabres
pioches, bêches et haches portées de Strasbourg à Nante
pour passer à la Virginie, et vous en reclamés l'executi
Vous demandés en même tems la décharge de la soumissi
que les préposés des fermes à Nantes ont exigées relativem
à des droits considerables qu'ils veulent faire payer à l'expor
tion de differents Canons, Mortiers, bombes, boulets et aut
semblables munitions de guerre que le Roi a bien voulu f
nir à l'Etat de Virginie

Je joins à ma lettre de ce jour les ordres de rembours
ment des sommes payées sur l'envoi d'armes blanches et aut
ustenciles fait de Strasbourg à Nantes. Quant au deuxe. Obje
j'ai eu l'honneur de vous prevenir le 24 d'Aoust dernier, q
cette exemption etoit une grace qui devoit être unique. V
avez vu que cette restriction etoit fondée sur des principes
donnés a cet égard, et que le Roi lui même s'est soumis à ac
quitter les droits pour les effets destinés à son usage et à son s
vice. Je regrette beaucoup que ces motifs ne me permettent
pas de faire annuller la soumission dont il s'agit.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec un très parfait attachem
Monsieur, Votre très humble et très Obeissant Serviteur

(Signé) Necker

Lorient 19 May 1780 A true Copy
[illegible] with the Original — by [illegible]
[illegible]
M. [illegible] à Paris Hotel d'Espag

N

No. 296

M. Arthur Lee

Paris ce 15 Avril 1779

J'ai reçu Monsieur les deux Lettres que vous m'avés fait l'honneur de m'ecrire, les 16 et 30 du mois dernier. Vous y rappellés les ordres que j'ai precedemment donnés pour faire jouir de l'exemption de tous Droits une partie de Sabres, Pioches, Beches et haches portés de Strasbourg a Nantes pour passer a la Virginie, et vous en reclamés l'execution. Vous demandés en même tems la decharge de la soumission que les Preposés des Fermes a Nantes ont exigée relativement a des Droits considerables qu'ils veulent faire payer a l'exportation de differents Canons, Mortiers, Bombes, Boulets et autres semblables munitions de guerre que le Roi a bien voulu fournir a l'Etat de la Virginie.

Je joins a ma lettre de ce jour les ordres de remboursement des sommes payés sur l'envoi d'armes blanches, et autres ustenciles fait de Strasbourg a Nantes. Quant au Deuxe. objet, j'ai eu l'honneur de vous prevenir le 24 Aout dernier que cette exemption etoit une grace qui devoit etre unique. Vous avés vu que cette restriction etoit fondée sur les principes admis a cet egard, et que le Roi lui meme, s'est soumis a acquitter les Droits pour les effets destinés á son usage et a son service. Je regrette beaucoup que ces motifs ne me permettent pas de faire annuller la soumission dont il s'agit

J'ai l'honneur &c

Signé Necker

True Copy Compaird

A Gillon

Translation of the above

Paris the 15 of April 1779

I received, Sir, the two Letters you did me the honor to write me the 16th & 30th of last month.

You therein remind me of the order I formerly gave, to exempt from Duties a quantity of Sabres, Shovels, Spades & axes sent from Strasbourg to Nantes to go to Virginia, & you claim the execution of it. You desire at the same time, a discharge of the Security which the Directors of the Farms at Nantes have insisted upon for Considerable Duties which they will have paid on the exportation of different Cannon, Mortars, Bombs Ball and other like munitions of War, which the King has been pleased to furnish to the State of Virginia.

I subjoin orders

for the restitution of the Sums paid on the Arms, & other Utensils sent from Strasbourg to Nantes.

As to the other Article, I had the honor of informing you on the 24th of last Augt. that the exemption was a favor which could not be repeated. You have seen that this was founded on principle & that the King himself submits to pay the duties destined for his service.

I regret exceedingly, that these reasons prevent one from annulling the Security in question.

I have the honor &c

Signe Necker.

S.r in 5 Edr.

(No 295)

Raritan 15. April 1779

My dear Sir

I am very sorry to hear you intend to leave the Congreſs so soon & am much Afraid you have your fears & doubts of the prevalence of Virtue & Liberty. what a pity after such a struggle & such powerful & honest exertions on your part! dont desert us now, we must at length succeed, Tis not surely time yet for riches & Despotism to triumph; let our Liberty & independence first be established – after that I trust there will many Brutus's, to stab any Julius Cæsars, before they have destroy'd the Libertys of their country. — If you will go God bleſs you & proſper all your endeavours for the public weal for wherever you go, I am sure you will endeavour. all our Love & compliments to Mrs Lee and your sweet children – write us & believe us

Your's very affectionately. W. Shippen jr

The Honble Richard Henry Lee Esqr

of Congreſs

Philadelphia.

Mr Martin.

Dr Wm Shippen

Oct 29

(~~No 421~~)

(No 295)

Copy Entire

No. 421

Capt. Landais to Dr. Franklen- Copy

Please your Excellency   Nantes April 19th 1779

Please your Excellency

Sir/

I left the harbor of Brest the 11th in company of the French Frigate called the Egrette bound to this River but the wind being contrary we coud sail no farther than the Conquest where we stayed till the 15th that the wind came S.E. then we got under sail but I soon found out we coud outsail all the french Frigates or Sloops of war & losing sight of them in the night time I made the best of my way towards this River where I came to an Anchor the 18th having aboard 93 English prisoners according to Mr. Schweighausers order, we are to deliver them to the English Castel Ship & pick up what number of Americans we can get out of the number that came in the same Castel Ship for to recruit the Ship as we can for to go to America when I shall have Mr. Schweighausers order to that purpose

I am with great Respect, Your Excellency's

most obedient & most
Humble Servant

His Excellency B.
Franklin Minister
Plenipotentiary of the
United States of America

(No 316)

Compar'd with the original & found to be a true Copy - L'Orient 14 April 1780

Joseph Brown

J. P. Jones
to
Lt. Degge
(21 Octr. 1779)

Capt. Landais
to
Dr. Franklin (19th Apl 1779)

Oct 21 1779
J P Jones to
Lt. Degges
to take Command)
of the Alliance

~~[illegible]~~ of these men.

I think also it will be advise-
able ~~not only~~ to send both Blands & Baylors Regiments
to the Southward — They should be enabled
~~[illegible]~~ as many men as they have horses
and accoutrements to equip.

We have now only two Regiments
of the Quota of North Carolina on the
foot ~~[illegible]~~ I have recommended ~~before~~ on
a former occasion that she should be call[ed]
upon to complete the ~~other~~ [illegible] for
the Southern service — I know not what
~~may~~ have been done; but it seems essent[ial]
~~this~~ measure should be pursued.

I am at a loss what additional
measures to advise — troops from this ar[my]
cannot possibly be spared, for the reasons
repeatedly assigned. It seems however
necessary, that [illegible] consisting
of militia whose time of service expire
almost as soon as they [illegible]
at their destination should be provided —
This can only be done by laws in the
neighbouring States for drawing out a
body for a longer term.

I have the honor to be
with very great respect & esteem
Your most Obed. Serv.

P.S. —
It will be necessary
I fear that arms be sent
to them from this quarter
The Board of War will take
the charge of this matter.

Rich. H. Lee

(419)

Head Quarters Middle
Brook April 30th 1779

42

Sir,

I was yesterday evening honored with your letter of the 29, in behalf of the Committee on Southern affairs, with the inclosed copy of one from the Lieutenant Governor of Carolina. The situation of affairs in that quarter has an aspect truly alarming; and though our force here after the troops intended for the Indian ~~western~~ expedition are detached, will be reduced so low as to afford cause of uneasiness ~~in this quarter~~ for the consequences, yet as the whole strength of these States is incapable of greater exertions on any sudden emergency, ~~than it is in the southern~~ I cannot but concur with the views of the Committee respecting the Virginia levies. — I wish they were in greater forwardness than they appear to be, by the letter of the 24th instant from General Scott, who ~~has been detached~~ a copy of which I transmit. It believe it is one of the terms on which these men are engaged, that they shall be furnished with Cloathing before they march out of the State. This will be a difficulty which no pains should be spared to accommodate. ~~transp~~ If the cloathing really is not ready, the State should employ ~~the~~ influence to induce ~~engage~~ the men to proceed, with satisfactory assurances that it shall follow as speedily as possible. — A recommendation to this effect from Congress or the Committee, I doubt not the Committee will take any measures they may think conducive to this end. — I shall without delay send a proportion of arms to take the

The Undersigned certifies that in a (No 292) conversation which he had the honor of holding, sometime after his arrival at Philadelphia, with Messrs Col. Lee and Samuel Adams the latter spoke to him of reports which circulated that Mr. Arthur was Antigallican & averse from the Alliance of France with the United States; that the answer of ~~the [illegible]~~ of the Underwritten was that in fact a great number of persons, among whom were some of distinguished rank, were persuaded of it, and had strove to inspire the Kings Ministers with the same sentiments. That the Underwritten had recounted to Messrs. Lee and Adams the principal facts upon which that opinion was founded. But that the Ministers of his Majesty had not adopted that mode of thinking in regard to the attachment of Mr. Arthur Lee for the cause of America and for the Alliance. It is proper to add that there was no mention, in that conversation, of the confidence, or of the full confidence of the french Ministry in Mr. Arthur Lee.

Mr. Samuel Adams may at his will make such use of the present certificate as he shall judge proper. At Philadelphia the 21st. of April 1779

True Copy
R. H. Lee.

L.S. Gerard

|| Mais que le Ministere de sa Majesté n'a pas adopté cette facon de penser sur l'attachement de Monr. Arth. Lee pour la cause Americaine et pour l'alliance".

Directed A Monsieur

Monsieur Samuel Adams Delegué au Congres de la part de l'etat de Massachusets Bay.

~~No 82~~
(No 292)

Gerard's Certificate
to
Saml Adams
Concerning A. Lee
April 21st 1779

Tobe put
Among the papers relating to the
Defence of A Lee.

Gerard's
Certificate to
Mr Adams
concerning Dr
Lee
1779

No 82

Paris ce [illegible] 17

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la nouvelle le
vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 15 de ce mo
relativement aux pièces d'Artillerie, bombes et bou
que le Roi a bien voulu fournir a l'État de Virginie
qui ont été expédiées par Nantes. D'après le détail
lequel vous voulez bien entrer, je donne ordre aux fe
-rs generaux de faire annuller la soumission passée
M. M. Schweighauser. Mais je vous prie de vouloir b
observer qu'il ne seroit pas possible de renouveller un
pareille faveur sans porter atteinte aux règles

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec [illegible] très parfait attach-
-ment, Monsieur, Votre très humble et très Obéissan
Serviteur

(Signé) Necker

L'Orient 19 May 1780 A true Copy Compared with the Original by
W Blodget of Boston
[illegible] of Boston

M. Arthur Lee rue Guenegaud Hotel d'Espagne

Mr. Necker to A. Lee.

(No 291)

15th April 1777

1779

(No 296)

Monticello apl. 21. 1779.

Dear Sir,

among the convention prisoners in this neighbourhood is a Baron de Geisman of the Germans, Brigade-major to Genl. Gall, whose situation I would wish to make you acquainted with. He is the only son of a German nobleman, & has I believe an only sister; his father, now 70 years of age, if living and excessively anxious to see him before his death: his patrimonial expectations in danger of being transferred to ~~another~~ others in the weak state of his father, or perhaps plundered in case of his death; the footing on which he stands with his prince such as might give him reason to hope for promotion were he on the spot, but every thing of that kind certain of passing by him as long as he is ~~abroad~~ absent. under these circumstances captivity is peculiarly injurious to him, & he petitions Congress to exchange him if possible, or otherwise permit him to return home on any parole they will prescribe. I am ~~confident~~ satisfied he will carry with him no dispositions to injure us; and his personal merit with which I have become intimately acquainted, entitles him to every indulgence consistent with the indispensable rules of Congress. I take the liberty of recommending his request to your solicitation, as from a knoledge of the man I am become interested in his happiness. whatever you can do for him will be considered as a peculiar obligation on, Dr. Sir,

your friend & servt.

Th: Jefferson

The Honble

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

of the Virginia delegation

Philadelphia.

No 95
(No 296)

Compared with the original, which is sent to R. H. Lee Esq., & found to be a correct copy.

University of Va.
Jan. 31. 1837.

J. A. G. Davis,
Chairm.n of the Faculty

No 95.

Philadelphia, ye 22d April 1779.

Sir.

about three weeks ago, I had the honor of informing you of the Necessity I am under of placing the million of dollars I have offered to Congress in behalf of various French Gentlemen: Their Interest presses me to demand once more from the honorable Committee of Congress, an Explicit & Speedy answer with Respect to my Proposition; Should I not receive a decisive Reply before the next Post Day, I shall think myself at liberty to dispose of their Funds, in the manner the most advantageous to their Personal Interest.

I have the honor to Remain
Sir,
your most Obedient
humble Servant
Holker

ye hon: Col: R: H: Lee,
chairman of the Special Committee
of Congress.

The

Honorable, Richard-Henry Lee,

Member of Congreſs.

22d. April 1779
Holmes

(No 297)

Dr Brother/ Paris April 22d 1779

I enclose you ⊕ an answer to one of the pieces sent me, by the Committee, wch you will present or not as you judge proper. If Mr Deane's piece should have made no impreſsion perhaps it may be as well to withhold this answer, as doing too much is often doing mischief. We are here without a Syllable from any of you since the 10th of Decr when I had a Letter from London. Some revolutions we have seen serve only to increase our embarraſsment & surprize. I beg that both in the answer I now send you, & that addreſsed to Congreſs you will correct or erase whatever you think proper, & if it shd appear to you & the other real friends to the public, that a further discuſsion of this matter at present will be detrimental to the public cause, I shall most willingly acquiesce in suspending it.

it. For I am entirely of opinion with our Brother
Loudon in his short & very sensible address to the
public, that I had rather suffer myself than
hazard injuring the public by my justification
The success of the Enemy in India has raised
their Credit & their funds. Otherwise things
remain exactly as they were, & without any
appearance of any thing of consequence happening
soon. I beg you will present my compliments &
thanks to Mr Payne. I have it from very good
Gerard
authority that 455, a, XIV, is suspected here of
with Deane
having been concerned, 115, b, XXXVIII & others in
Merchandize, Contracts &c & that he imposed upon the
Court (King)
243, a, XVII here so as to obtain the Letters for him
of wch he boasts so much. Send me what facts
appear on your side to support this. My opinion
Doctor french Consul
is that the 124, a, VI, the 170, a, XXIV, 101, a, XXXV, with you,
Gerard Deane
455, a, XIV, 115, b, XXXVIII, Chaumont & Beaumarchais

are all

are all interested 213, a, VIII-d together. There is assuredly good roguery in the business, wch time, observation & enquiry will discover. This 374, b, XII, Court 108, a, IX, is in much distress 132, b, XXIX about supporting the war 416, b, XIX & mean to call on you for rigorous 392, b, XIII, exertions 152, b, IX-s. But I am afraid they cannot furnish you, money 246, b, XXV.

Adieu.

Apr. 22d. 1779 A L to R H L
rec'd Aug 79.

desiring me to erase &c.
correct such parts of his Memo=
=rials to Congress as myself &
the public friends approve

22 April 1779

(~~No. 124~~)
(No 397)

No. 124

~~No. 16~~

My dear Brother, Annapolis Apl. 22d. 1779

I am thus far on my way home from Congreſs, & finding a Veſsel about to depart from hence ~~in the~~ tomorrow morning for France; I embrace the opportunity of letting you know that all your friends are well. —

There is as yet no determination on Deane's ffairs, but probably soon will be, & I fear, much to your prejudice; should it be otherways now, I am atisfied you will in the end be sacrificed, & therefore t may not be amiſs to think in time, of some stablishment in which your honor & fortune will e leſs dependant on the villainy & folly of mankind. for my own part I am determined to retire ing fully convinced, that at present, the post of onor, is a private station. tell our bror. W. to look himself I shall write fully to him about his ffairs, by the first opportunity after my arrival Virginia. You was not mistaken in your opinion as to the support D- brot with him, the open and indecent countenance which has been given to those who were never friends to independance, nor of course to the Alliance, will I fear injure greatly the common cause, if England is wise enough to make use of the advantage. The world will expect from you a clear refutation of all the infamous slanders, which a most abandoned junto have thrown on you; with a full exposure of their wicked plots against the public. therefore no pains shoud be spared in collecting materials. The want of a cypher & the uncertainty of this conveyance prevents my being more full, but I expect R. H. L. who is still at Congress, will give you a compleat Idea of our present system of Politicks. Remember me to Mr. Adams & Mr. Lloyd. Love to W. L's family. —

Yours ever
Loudoun

Mrs. Lloyd & Mrs. Lee command me to give their Love to you

This moment I have recd. advice from Virg.a of the death of our friend Col. Tayloe.

Dear Sir, London the 22. April 1779—

I have long been indebted to you for the Receipt of your three last favors, that of the 8th came to hand this day sevennight, on which day a Gentleman dined with me who has a sincere Regard for our mutual friend whose Character was so basely traduced in the public Leidger of the 23 March, I shewed your Letter to him, & he informed me that he had that Morning been to one of the Printers to see the original Manuscript from which the false & scandalous paragraph was inserted in the Prints, & for a douceur, I believe obtained it, but could not investigate this dark Affair any farther, the hand writing being unknown, & the incendrical Author was not daring enough to put his Name at the bottom of his lying Composition, fearing to incur the Resentment of the injured Gentleman's Friends here. It appears plainly to me that this false Report was fabricated here, & not at P——s as you apprehend, & others of the Gentleman's Friends are also of the same Opinion. If it were my Case, I would treat the Aspersion with silent Contempt especially as every one here is satisfied that it is groundless, & if it were contradicted, the revival of the Matter might occasion fresh Abuse, which you know the News paper writers here are ever ready to catch at, all public Characters being as they think fair Game for defamatory purposes. By——r's tragical Affair seems to have been replete with designed Carnage before the Murderers began their horrid Butchery. I have seen the Depositions in the last Remembrancer, which are too shocking to be read by any but those who perpetrated the Deeds. My Correspond^{ts} in Amsterdam informed me by the last Post, that a Vessel had just arrived there from St Eustatia, that brings Advice as she sailed out of the Harbor, the Vessel in which our Friends went, entered the Harbor, the date of arrival at S^{t} E: was the 17 Feby., we hope soon to receive Letters from them, none being yet arrived. I sent the Court Calender sometime ago by Mr Coullard, who promised to deliver it to you as directed, his route was thro' Paris to Bordeaux, there were also some News Papers at same time inclosed. The inclosed News Paper will give you Accounts of the late operations brought from thence by Col^{o} Campbell. I wish they had been more favorable on our side. M^{r} P——e the Gent^{n} whom you want to be informed of, I am told is connected with a certain race of

high cheek boned People not very friendly inclined to our
Cause, or Country he has been a long time resident in your City, &
his stay there looks suspicious, it will not be amiſs to be
on your Guard against incog. Characters who may do
mischief if they are not carefully avoided. this must be
inter nos. I must now inform you that my Mother, Cousin
T., Self & two Brothers intend to Barbadoes with the Convoy
that is orderd to sail on the 6th May, we have engaged to go
with Capt. Crowell Hatch of the William, when we get to Bbadoes
my Mother, & Family except my self will land there,
& remain with my Uncle T. until the Troubles are settled
that they may be permitted to go safely home. I shall
proceed to St. Eustatia in the Brig Fanny Capt.
Moses Robertson in which Vessel I have a
property, therefore if our Friends can serve me
in granting a Certificate or any p——ſs that will pro=
tect us in Case of a Capture, I shall be infinitely obliged.
The Gent. who is the Bearer will probably return very
soon. I am with our best Respects to you, & all Friends

Dear Sir,

Your's sincerely.

my cash for my expences of

I acknowledge to have received of the Hon [illegible] Lee Esq.r at Paris, during the time I acted as [illegible]ry to him the above Sum of Six hundred & Ninety Six Livres, Six Sols, tournois. Witness my hand this 23.d day of April 1779.

H. Ford.

1779

Received of the Hon.ble Arthur Lee, Esq.r f.
twelve hundred Livres tournois for my Ser
my Expences to America. Witness my h

Coblentz 23d April 1779

Dear Sir

The Confidence I have rather in your indulgence than in my Skill encourages me to try the chance of a letter wholly in English. I have been very sorry to learn that your health has been impaired. I hope you will by this time be interely recovered. I wish that after the due attention given to your health, you should be employed for the common good and as soon as possible as Minister plenipotentiary at a neighbouring Court. The apointment of Dr. Franklin at Ours, shows evidently to the world the connection formed between your country and mine. But to give it all its value and strength it would require somewhat more than can be effected by plenipotentiaries whose arguments and reasonings are always submitted to the events of war. You mention in your last letter to me that 61. is recalled; I would fain know whether at his own desire or not. I cannot form any Judgment about his designed Successor knowing nothing of him but his face. I think it could not have been the work if 60. could have filled that place. Whoever it be I wish him a full success, being interely concerned for the welfare of both States and a true friend to North America.

keep the Europeans in their limits out of *whom* they should go only as traders and not as conqueror.

I am far from having a pretension ever to publish a history of the american revolution, but looking on that event as pregnant of matters of observation and being desirous to enlarge as much as I can my knowledge in matters concerning mankind, I think I cannot take a more proper aim of my present Study than to examine all the measures which the Several States of America have taken and take for their welfare. I see that they come nearer to what can be wished to form a good government than any other State before ever arrived at; but I am sorry to think that perfection is not be expected in human institutes. Those are the happiest who come the nearest to it. The other States are justly alarm'd at the Constitution of Pensylvania if the foundation of Tyranny is laid in it, For I think there are two ways to bring whole North America under it. 1st. if one State comes to be ambitious bodily, suposing it to be attended with luck, which may happen, as in antient times Lacedemona and Athens ruled successively over the other States of confederate Greece. 2dly. if some ambitious men succeed in the project of subverting and subduing their own State, they may afterwards subdue the others. Did not Cromwell after having subverted and subdued England, subdue Scotland, Ireland and your Virginia.

I wish some more important event than the conquest of Senegal could happen in our favour. I am quite of your mind as to the dispositions people should carry in contrary events. If such happen by one's own faults, they should serve as an advice to take other measures. If chance alone and ill luck brings them on, then fortitude and perseverence should be used, and I would always say Tu ne cede malis sed contra audentior ito. The efforts made against ill fortune have somewhat noble which makes them worth of admiration, and sometimes they are crowned with success. I hope the depression of spirits which you mention, will have been been only of the spirits of vulgar men, whose nature it is to be too easily elevated or dejected.

The present year must bring forth events which will of course have a great influence on your revolution. Plea God to consolidate such a noble work. Count d'Estaing's honour is more concerned than ever to perform some striking action, though I don't look on the loss of Sta Lucia as of great importance. I wish Pondichery could be as easily recovered. I am sorry England keeps a wing in the East having so deservedly lost one in the west. Were the Indians men as the North Americans, they would use the same means to

Notwithstanding all that I think that your people can be with your Governments the happiest people in the world; and that is the Chief reason why I so ardently wish and complete and hasty success to all your efforts to expulse your ennemies.

As for my part, I wish all men in the world could be happy they could be so in every Government even in the most despotic ones, if the Rulers did unite virtue and knowledge which is seldom to be found. I first study to make myself happy by all the means which I have, or rather to maintain my self happy, for I think I am one of the happiest men in the world and thank God for it. Then I prepare myself to be able to contribute to others happiness if providence would put me in a position where I could have some influence on their fate.

The undertaking of Mde. de Moustier has the greatest success for her and her son. I will on my side endeavour to show me to him as good a father as she is a good mother, by making my chief object of his education in order to make him an honest man and useful to Society. The Nurse thanks you for your attention to her and desires her best compliments to you. Believe me Dear Sir with the most sincere esteem and affection your most obedient humble servant

Le Cte. de Moustier

Sir,

Paſsy April 24. 1779

I received your favors of the 6 inst. from Brest, & the 19 from Nantes. I am glad to learn that you are safely arrived with the prisoners. You will receive some of the exchanged Americans whom Mr. Schweighauser has engaged for; I have applyd to the Minister of the Marine for as many good french seamen as will make up your complement, which will be accordingly given you.

I am now to inform you, that the Ships from Nantes wch. I at first proposed, you should take under your Convoy, being mostly sailed, & the King having offerd Mr. Adams a paſsage in one of his Ships which carries his Ambaſsador to America, there does not seem at present a neceſsity for your immediate return & therefore I propose that the Alliance should make a cruise before her departure wch. I imagine will be a satisfaction both to you & your people, as it may give to you an opportunity of acquiring honor & to them profit. I hope too that both you & they will have the satisfaction of delivering the rest of our Countrymen from their present confinement in England, by taking a number of prisoners to exchange for them: in which case you may as you desire, have your whole Crew composed of Americans only; & I am sure your succeſs in this respect will make you exceedingly welcome to that Country & the Congreſs on your happy return.

With these & other views, my orders now are, that you proceed to L'Orient, where you will receive your complement of men, & such other things as may be neceſsary for your cruise & where you will meet the farther orders I am preparing to send you.

An

As the man you lost was rogue enough to desert I think we are better without him. And as they will give us a number of good ones instead of him it is hardly worth while to make a complaint about him at present.

My best wishes for your success, honor & happiness will constantly attend you, being with much esteem

Sir

Your most Obedt. & most Hble Servant

(Signed) B Franklin

True Copy compared & corrected from the original

Ludwell Lee

Honble Capt. Landais

Passy April 24. 1779

Sir/

I received your favors of the 6th inst. from Brest & the 19 from Nantes. I am glad to learn that you are safely arrived with the prisoners. You will receive some of the exchanged Americans whom Mr Schweighauser has engaged for you; & I have applyd to the Minister of the Marine for as many good french Seamen as will make up your Compliment wch will be accordingly given you.

I am now to inform you, that the Ships from Nantes wch I at first proposed, you should take under your Convoy being mostly sailed, & the King having offerd Mr Adams a passage in one of his Ships wch carries his Ambassador to America, there does not seem at present a necessity for your immediate return, & therefore I propose that the Alliance should make a cruize before her departure wch I imagine will be a satisfaction both to you & your people, as it may give to you an opportunity of acquiring honor & to them profit. I hope too that both you & they will have the satisfaction of delivering the rest of our Countrymen from their present confinement in England, by taking a number of prisoners to exchange for them: in which case you may, as you desire, have your whole Crew composed of Americans only; & I am sure your success

welcome to that

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As the man you lost was rogue enough to desert I think we are better without him. And as they will give us a number of good ones instead of him it is hardly worth while to make a complaint about him at present.

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Sir

Your most Obedt. & most Hble. Servant

(Signd) B. Franklin

True Copy compared & corrected from the original

Ludwell Lee

Richar Henry Le Esqr No 298 Berlin the 24 April 1779

Sir

Lately received a Letter of my Cousin Mr Fr G. Hasenclever from Philadelphia, who gave me the agreable news that you were healthy and happy in that City, to which I give you joie, and that you wished I might once more return to America, tho' I love that Country still my present Situations of affairs Seems to give me little hope to returne once more to the new world, & to pay my Respects to many friends whose remembrance gives me pleasure, and will be allways dear to me. Heaven grant that the present unhappy quarrelle betwixt England and America, may be Soon finished, could my wishes be accomplised, the Americans would enjoie that Liberty which I wish them so heartly. I wish that the number of Privateers did not inspire fear to all our Merchants, who are willing to do buſsineſs with America, but incertainty and Danger with wich it is Surrounded, deprives them of all Courage. we must also waite untill Peace and Tranquillity is intirely reestablished, and then I hope we Shall do ſome buſsineſs of importance, the King has recommanded to his Subjects to trade with America direct, as Soon as the Circumstances will permit it, without running the Risk of loosing Ship and Cargo; I have the good luck to be in great favour and intimatly acquainted with our Minister of finances; and I am called hither on account to form a Plan on what footing the busineſs of this Country may be increased.

We are happily Situated and provide the adjacent Provinces and Polland mostly with Sugar, Coffe. Rice, Tobacco and all Westindia and American Products; we can take annually from 10 to 12000 barills of Rice and 7 to 8000 Hheads of Tobacco, we have cheap and Good Linnens, & woollen goods which will Suit your American markets, so that we may do a mutual agreable and profitable Business, with the American Colonies. I beg you my Dear Sir to Send me a Plan, on what footing we could carry on the Tabacco trade Direct from Virginia for this country. I Suppose one might agree, with Severall houses in Severall Counties, to take our Linnens and woollens and furnish us Tobacco in Return; this trade however must be carried on, on both Side with the greatest sincerity and Oeconomie in Such a manner as to Establish the Lowest prices of goods, of lowest prices and best quality of Tobacco.

Since I quited England where I was treated with the greatest unjustice I have Established an house at Landeshutt in Silesia in the Linnen trade, in which business I have been heaven be thank very Successfull, and my Establishment is one of the Convenientest and pleasantest in Silesia; I have the Honnour to be Known personnally by the King and have Spoke severall times to him and I am very much befriended by Severall of his Ministers, and Spend my time in this Metropolis, wither I have been often called on Commercial affairs, in the most agreable manner

Two years ago I was Send for. When Mr Alderman Lee your brother and Mr Sayre were here, but unluckly your brother was departed when I arrived. and Yesterday I dined with Colonel Arend at the Ministers of Finance His Excell.cy Baron de Goerne. Colonel Arend, beeing unacquainted w[illegible] commerce. proposed Some affairs which could not be accepted, I made the Colonel Sensible of it, he has been for some time at Breslau, but the merchants there were unaquainted with ye American trade and therefore were timerous. and declined his proposals. he departed this Morning from Hence for frankfurth. The King however has Recommanded his Subjects, to trade with America Direct, as soon as it can be done without danger.

Pray if you will favour me with your kind Nouvelles direct your Letter for me. to Monsr. J. Dr Schweighauser at Nantes and I beg you will give me Some account of your present Situation an Hope for Liberty. in which Expectation I am with the sincerest regard.

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

Peter Hasenclever

Peter Hasenclever
April 24th 79
No 298

To
Richard Henry Lee Esqr
at
Philadelphia

24th April 1779
Peter Hasenclever 9^2 49
Answered 8th Octr 1779

Pen. S. L. Bn.

[No 299]

My dear Sir, Philadelphia April 24th 1779

To such uncertain issue are all letters now exposed that are committed to Ship board, that it absolutely prohibits ~~[illegible]~~ that full and explicit declaration~~s~~ of ones sentiments on many important points ~~[illegible]~~ which I shall ever wish to make to you on whose wisdom and goodness I have the firm~~nes~~est reliance. The principles you adopt, and the conduct you intend to pursue, as mentioned in the ~~long~~ letter you did me the honor to write me the 5th of Augt. last, I do most thoroughly approve. I know well that your support will only be given to the cause of virtue and your country, and that it will never be withheld they from. Who fails in ~~right~~ doing right, fails nobly, because Virtue is its own and a very great reward. You will see by the public prints, which Mr. Lovell tells ~~me~~ he has transmitted since the 1st of December last, that we are not exempt from the common Lot of humanity. But, tho Deanes and Partners of Deanes may and will shoot up in every Soil, and the foulness about them ~~will~~ thicken for a time the purest streams, these will at length work themselves clear and as they run refine. The bold and sudden attempt made by Deanes Libel of decr 5. ~~by the [illegible]~~ on the public mind, seized it for a time with great violence, and hurried it away with too much rapidity for reflection — But no sooner did men begin to think than they began to see, and S. Deane has now fallen under universal contempt and censure — I am sure it has not been this mans fault if he hath not done ~~[illegible]~~ more injury to ~~against~~ these States than G. Howe ever did — But enough of him — We shall soon transmit our plan for foreign affairs, and in the mean time, we are very impatient to hear from you, not having done so for three months past — We hope Spain will join ~~us~~ France, which will indeed ~~be~~ make decisive work — We are preparing for the ensuing Campaign with all possible vigor, but the enemies and our troops yet remain in quarters this way, and it seems probable that the former will be glad to continue so all the Summer as they have not more than 10 or 12,000 men both in York & Rhode Islands — which force if collected, would not be sufficient to take the field — The enemy have made a successful impression on Georgia this winter, but I consider this in the same light of mere temporary effect, as we have seen all their former operations — Measures are taking to remove them from that State, and tho the Climate wars against us, it will not

fight
for them —

[illegible] I see, with you, the importance of the Confedera=tion, and I am not without hope that it will [illegible], ere long, be completed – All have agreed except Maryland, and that State it is thought will come in at the next meeting of their Assembly, which will be in a few months. The Assembly of Virginia have directed their Delegates to move Congress to fix a day for closing this great Compact between such of the States as have consented, [illegible] allowing either a given or indefinite time, as to Congress shall seem best, for dissenting States to become Members – We shall shortly move Congress for this purpose – The Currency is an object of the last importance – Tax we do, and very largely indeed, but this is still inadequate – Some aid, by foreign Loan, is indispensable by way of absorbing the immensity of the Mass– [illegible] Two ~~one~~ Millions of pounds sterling ~~would~~ applied this way would, with the aid of Taxes, so reduce it as to fix the remainder of our Money on a good foundation, and then, Taxation with ~~a~~ economy will do the rest –

After all the vainglorious boasting of our enemies, they find no chance for making a lasting impression either on the Eastern or middle States – The feeble Georgia is now the only object of the mighty rage of our foes, nor do I believe they will long succeed ~~th~~ even there – Lately our Coasts have been pretty free from the enemies Cruisers – They have now an ample call for their Sea force in other parts, and at present our Frigates [illegible] preserve our trade from the interruption it met with ~~from~~ by the numerous small Privateers of the enemy.

Be pleased to accept a pamphlet that accompanies this containing a special collection from our Journals made to counteract ~~the~~ certain false and ill designed assertions of the British Commissioners lately here –

~~My respects to the good [illegible]~~

I am, ~~with~~ yours dear Sir with
the most affectionate esteem and regard

Richard Henry Lee

direct your letters for me to the care of Dr. Shippen
in Philadelphia –

R.H. Lee to John Adams Esqr

April 24th 1779.

(~~No 230.~~)

(No 299)

R.H.L. to
John Adams Esqr
1779

No. ~~6X~~ 230

23
8
184

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600

8 ~ 7 — 300,000
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262,500

Alexandria 24th April 1779

Sir,

Immediately on the receipt of your Excellency's instructions, I repaired to Williamsbg for the Governors further instructions which was nothing more than that the Cloaths ſhould be ready at any place that I chose to appoint by the 20th. of this instant, upon which I ordered thro the Public prints and ſeveral expreſses that the men ſhould be rendesvous'd at this place the 20th. and those on the South ſide of Rappahannock at Fredericksburg the 25th. Inst I myſelf reached this the 21st -- and to my great astonishment found not one rag of Cloaths nor a ſingle man, I ſhall leave the neceſsary instructions for this post and return to Fredericks:burg, in order to put those troops that may be collected there, in motion and forward a letter to the Govr. respecting the inattention of the County Lieut.s in this part of the State, and desire that the cloaths may be hurried up. I have had no letter from the Govr. but have reasons to believe that the Cloathing will not be ready for a consi:derable time perhaps two months. in that case I wish to have your Excellys. further instructions - Indeed I can ſay and I think with ſome degree of propriety that the Cloath:ing will not be ready time enough to render the men of any use this campaign

(No 300) (~~No 407~~

campaign - I wish I may be mistaken in this matter, but am fearful I shall not - Your Excy. may rest assured - however ruinous this business may be to me that whatever respects my own duty has and shall be done with all possible expedition -

I am &c -
Chs. Scott

(Copy)

Scott Chs

407

Ch: Scott

Sir/ (No 293) Passy April 25. 1779

The Bearer Mr Hezekiah Ford who has for some time been in the service of the United States, & always a zealous friend to the cause of Liberty, being about to return to America, if you can conveniently receive him in your Ship as a Passenger when you return thither you will oblige

Sir

Your most Obedient & most
Humble Servant

(Signed) B Franklin

I Certify that the above Letter is a true copy from the original signed B. Franklin.

L'Orient 23 April 1780.

Joseph Brown Junr
of South Carolina

To the Honble P. Landais Esqr

B. Franklin's
Recommends Hezekia Ford
to Cap: Landois for a passage
to America after having coun:
termanded his going thither

(No. 293)

(25 Apl. 1778.) (1779)

Avril 25. 1779
Doct. B Franklin
recommends Mr.
Hez. Ford to Cap.
Landais for a
Passage to America
after he had counter-
manded his going thither

25 Avril 79?

Le Cte. de Moustier est infiniment sensible à la proposition que lui fait Monsieur Lee d'etre de la partie que les Dames Americaines se proposent de faire pour voir les maisons Royales. La Santé de Mde. de Moustier ne lui permet pas de pouvoir avoir l'honneur d'accompagner ces Dames, Elle les prie d'etre bien persuadées de ses regrets. Quant au Cte. de Moustier si Monsieur Lee pense qu'il puisse leur être de quelque utilité dans ces arrangemens, il le prie de vouloir bien le lui marquer afin qu'il puisse prendre les informations necessaires pour devenir un bon guide. Il a dejà apris qu'il falloit une permission de Mr. Le Cte. de Coix pour voir le petit Trianon. Si Monsieur Lee le souhaite il se chargera d'en faire la demande Dimanche prochain à Versailles et si ces Dames ont le desir qu'il ait l'honneur de les accompagner il yra Samedi matin à Chaillot pour fixer un jour de la semaine prochaine pour la partie proposée. Il prie Monsieur d'agréer ses sinceres complimens.

Le 25.

Sir;

(No 294) Paris April 26. 1779

The inclosed copies of letters, between Mr. Petrie & myself, will inform Congreſs that Mr. Deane had no authority for the accusation made against me, of having written a letter to England giving information of the Treaty being signed. I can pledge my honor to Congreſs, that it is equally groundleſs with regard to my brother — He will trace the truth to its fountain, as fast as his situation will permit. As this Mr. Petrie is a Stock Jobber himself, and united with those Americans here, who are in the same line, I agine that the having imputed the intelligence to my other, will appear upon enquiry, to have been originally trick of these people, such as is very common in the Alley; which Mr. Deane has converted into a criminal accusation against me. I rely upon the justice of Congreſs for such a censure of his conduct as it deserves.

To his Excellency the
President of Congreſs.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest
respect Yr. Excellency's most obt. Servt.
Arthur Lee

26 Aprie 1779
(No 294)

A. Lee to
Congress
about Deanes
false charges.
April 1779.

My dear brother Phila. April 26. 1779

I sincerely condole with you for the loss of our amiable and worthy friend Col. Tayloe, but he is happy, far happier than those he has left upon this turbulent wicked stage — The inclosed paper will shew you the fortunate success of our little fleet from Boston. The Marine enemies stare and are ashamed of their purblind policy which has so often condemned exertions in this way. We go slowly on in foreign affairs — It has however been resolved not to recall Dr. Franklin, and so far the party have failed, because the plan was to recall them all to make room — This day I have heard all the artillery discharged with great vehemence against Dr. Lee, and prodigious aid is derived from the whiskers of G— d — A doctrine quite new in the history of politics is broached now, which is, that it becomes the dignity, and consists with the interests of Sovereign powers to consult foreign Courts, and less than that, foreign Ministers, who the first shall send to represent them abroad — And this, altho such resident Minister shall clearly and unequivocally engage in faction, and party doings, to support a Man whose conduct is insupportable. What will such things lead to in the end? I see nothing but disgrace, contempt, and ruin. Perhaps the Man whose understanding, zeal, and spirit, prevented the 12th article from being closed upon this Country may have been on that account not quite so agreeable, but surely we have no cause to complain of him — And to this may be added, that an host of plunderers have been disconcerted in the Mercantile way, which has raised a prodigious cry — But this Great evidence has given it from under his hand that the Court of France did not adopt the sentiments of those who represented Dr. Lee as antigallican or favoring England and being averse to the Alliance — XX Mr. Laurens said in Congress the whole convinced him that Dr. Lee was an honest, faithful, able & diligent Servant of the United States.

How these affairs will end I know not, but this I do know, that I am quite tired of the wickedneſs and folly of such part of the world as I have lately had an opportunity of considering, and wish for a few days to paſs over when I may retire — Things are not worse to the Southward, but they are not very pleasing — I think our State has not exerted itself properly for the relief of its oppreſsed and endangered Sisters — The enemy have lately sent 9 more regiments from N. York, but whether for Georgia or the W. Indies is uncertain — They are weak now in that quarter.

My love to Mrs Lee, and remember me to Dr Jones and Mr Gilbourne — I would not change an hour of the sensible conversation of the former and the facetiousneſs of the latter for an age of Congreſs wisdom —

I should have written by this post to our friend Mr Page of Mannsfield, but I suppose he is with you. Salute him for me — Adieu

Richard Henry Lee

Give my love to Mr Parker and tell him that I am so oppreſsed with buſineſs that it is impoſsible for me to write to him now — thank him for his favor of the 13th —

1800 barrels of Flour
2200 do. of Beef & Pork
£120,000 Sterlings worth of Beef & Pork } Cargoes of the 7 prizes

(No 301)

Dear Brother/ Paris April 27th 1779

I send you by Mr Ford, who comes over for his health, a quadruplicate of my Letter to Congress in answer to Mr Deane, an answer to his observations on Mr Izard's Letter, the Letters that have passed between Dr Franklin & myself relative to some Papers in my hands, & some observations on their Contract with the Farmers general.

The part of my Answer to the observations wch.
old [illegible]r
relates to the 260,6,1. 134,a,[illegible] is so contrived that ~~they~~ it may be presented or not as you judge proper. The propriety of presenting or making public the whole or any part of what I have written I leave entirely to your judgment.

Gerard
Since 455,a,xiv. was recalled, the conversation

reigns freely about his 99,b,XIX connections, in 216,a,VIII-s jobs, with 112,b,XXXVIII Deane, Beaumarchais, & others, & his 82,b,XXXI c—l—rs. is exceedingly reprobated. Mr. Lord will give you particulars of things here. I can only say of certain persons, what many others have said, that, if it remains long in their power, it is much to be feared that they will proceed from jobbing the 354,a,XXXVI s—t—e, 330,b,XI-s m—o, to job the 354,a,XXXVI s—t—e.

As to the favor & influence of a certain person here, I who know that instead of having influence to act for us, he is a mere instrument in the hands of those whom the 108,a,IX G—a—t set over him, can see a very good reason why they should wish him to remain. If there is such a high opinion of his 284,a,VII p—l—e, 423,a,III w—o—m, as is pretended, his advice must of course have been taken since our 43,a,XXIII a—l—e, and the very weak and unwise measures which have raised the 145,a,XXXIV e—m—y & almost 331,b,VI.d the 170,a,XXIV n—h were his. Either his advice was not worth asking or if given was very weak. I know that he neither has any political knowledge nor have I any reason to believe his advice was ever asked. If 99,a,XVII G—g—s are satisfyd of the injustice of the attacks upon

$\overset{us}{415}$, a, x. — they should $\overset{r-l-r}{314}$, a, xx. accordingly. Some reparation must be made or I do not see how any Gentleman will ever be safe in the $\overset{b-x}{97}$, a, xxxiv; $\overset{a-n-e}{333}$, b, xxiii: The Chevalier de la Luzerne, & the Secretary of the Embassy M. Marbois, who are to replace M. Gerard will not disturb us by exciting Parties or making disgraceful connections. They seem to be well acquainted with $\overset{G\ R\ D}{455}$, a, xiv. having engaged unduely with certain persons.

Your Sons are well & improving.

Adieu

27 April 1779

~~No 134~~

[No 301]

No. 134.

27 April 1779
A. Lee to R. H. L.
abt. Gerards chr.
on his recall
Franklin &c.

Observations on the contract made ~~by~~ with the farmers general for the delivery of 5,000 hhds Tob°. by the hon. Ben. Franklin & Silas Deane (N° 163)

Before I set out for Spain the Farmers general proposed to enter into a contract with us for supplying them with Tob°. In our consultation upon this, I proposed that it should be stipulated, that the Farmers general should send such supplies as the States wanted, & bring back the Tob°. given in payment for them. The ground of this proposal was, that so rich and powerful a body being interested, & undertaking the business, it might be executed with more expedition and certainty than we, or any agents we could employ would effect; that they would probably obtain Convoys from Government; that it would relieve us from difficulties both of finding ships here to carry the supplies, & in America to bring the Tob°.; and finally, that it would save us the very great risk of the transport to & fro, witht. Convoys; which nothing but so powerful an influence as that of the Farmers general had any chance of obtaining. The proposition was reduced into writing in the following words, a copy of which I have i[redacted] hhds of Tob°. to be ready in the several public Warehouses of Virga. & Maryld.; from whence the English used to take it, at the rate of 4 sols pr. pound in exchange for munitions of war, woolens, & linnens, cloathing for the Troops, tents, sails &c.; these shall be purchased here by our Agents, paid for by the farmers general, & transported thither in their ships, & the exchange shall be made on this footing, that for every 4 sols contained in the invoices of such goods as the prime cost thereof, shall be delivered one pound of Tob°.; charges not to be reckon'd on either side, & the expence of the transport & risk both of the goods from France, & of the Tobaccos to France, to be borne by Messrs. the Farmers General" These were the principles of this Negotiation. The Farmers we were told would agree to this proposal; but they afterwards retracted, and I found upon going to Nantes, that they were at the same time concluding an agreement with the Commercial Agent upon much more advantageous terms. I wrote an account of this business, at that time to the Secret Committee as follows. Nantes 14 feb. 1777. "Since I had the honor of writing yesterday, Mr. Thos. Morris has informed me, of the agreement he has just concluded with the Farmers General for all the Tob°. which shall arrive here on yr. account at 70 Livres a hundred. It was probably in contemplation of this, that they refused to sign the treaty with us after they had passed their word for it. Our object was, to interest government here, thro' them, in our Commerce so much as to secure their utmost protection of it; to secure the export of our produce, which we apprehended the scarcity of shipping & sailors would render impracticable in our own bottoms, & to command, as with a considerable advance of ready money, a full supply of arms, ammunition, rigging, &c which we might convey with more certainty under their protection" At the same time I wrote to my Colleagues an account of the Contract made with Mr. Morris; & the price that Tob°. bore both in Virginia & France To this I received the following answer from Dr. Franklin. Paris March 2. 1777 "We received duly yours of feb. 14. from Nantes. The Farmers general since your departure, have been again in Treaty with us for Tob°. We offered (rather rashly I think) to deliver it in france at 8 Sols. They offered 5. interim we received your intelligence of its being 20/ sterlg. pr. Ct. Wt. in Virga.; of course we rejected their offer; & we think of treating with them no further, but leave them to Mr. Morris, or whom they please" After all this information Dr. Franklin & Mr. Deane concluded a treaty with the farmers general, which I suppose they sent a copy of to Congress, for 40 Livres pr. Ct. instead of 70, which they knew Mr. Morris had obtained, with such large allowances (a) as in fact reduced that small sum very much lower

(a) It is agreed to furnish York or James river Tob°.; to allow them poid de marc, which is 108 of our pounds, & 7 pr. Cent. for Samples, full weight &c., besides cutting away all that they should determine was damaged.

Not a single political point was stipulated or secured. If the agreement had been perform'd within the time ~~it~~ expected, it would have been a clear loss, according to the then current price of Tob.o here, to the public of near two millions of Livres. If it was not performed, of which indeed there was not the remotest probability, it wo.d beget a bad opinion of our faith, and injure us in future negotiations for the loans that might be necessary, & which the farmers general were most likely to supply. The sole object obtained by all these sacrifices was getting a million of livres into their hands. If it was rash at first, it was infinitely more so after the full information they had received. Yet these are the gentlemen who by secret insinuations, or avowed accusations, by themselves, or their Agents, have been continually villifying others, and arrogating to themselves all knowledge, all merit, & all virtue.

(Copy signed) Arthur Lee

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5 [redacted]

(No 183)

~~No. 144~~

Wm & A. Lee

Letters & Papers
relative to
European matters

"Observations on the
contract for furnishing
Tob.o to the Farmers
General & various
Missives. To &
from Petrie &c
Drs Lee & Frank-
-lin about Origi-
-nal papers.

April 27— 1779 (Nº 295)

Observations on the contract made with the Farmers general, for the delivery of 5000 Hogsheads of Tobacco, by the Hble B. Franklin & Silas Deane.

Before I set out for Spain the Farmers general proposed to enter into a Contract with us for supplying them with Tobacco. In our consultation upon this, I proposed that it should be stipulated that the Farmers general should send such supplies as the State wanted, & bring back the Tobacco given in payment for them. The ground of this proposal was that so rich & powerful a Body being interested & undertaking the business, it might be executed with more expedition & certainty than we, or any Agents we could employ, would effect; that they would probably obtain Convoys from Government; that it would relieve us from the diffi:

difficulties both of finding Ships here to carry the supplies, & in America to bring the Tobacco - & finally That it would save us the very great risque of the transport to & fro without Convoys, which nothing but so powerful an influence as that of the Farmers general, had any chance of obtaining.

The proposition was reduced to writing in the following words, a copy of which I have in Dr. Franklins hand.

"Twenty thousand Hogsheads of Tobacco to be ready in the several public Warehouses of Virginia & Maryland, from whence the English used to take it, at the rate of 4 Sols pr pound in exchange for munitions of war, Woollens, Linnens, Clothing for the troops, tents, sails &ca there shall be purchased here by our Agents, paid for by the farmers general & transported thither in their Ships; & the

exchange

exchange shall be made on this footing that for every 7. Sols contained in the invoice of such goods as the prime cost thereof, shall be delivered one pound of Tobacco, charges not to be reckoned on either side, & the expence of the transport & risque both of the Goods from France & of the Tobacco to France, to be borne by Messrs the Farmers general."

These were the principles of this Negotiation. The Farmers general we were told would agree to the proposal; but they afterwards retracted, & I found upon going to Nantes, that they were a the same time concluding an agreement with the Commercial Agent upon much more advantageous terms. I wrote an account of this business to the Secret Committee as follows — Gentlemen, Nantes Feby 14th 1777. "Since I had the honor of writing yesterday Mr

"Mr. Thos. Morris has informed me, of the agreement
"he has just concluded with the Farmers general
"for all the Tobacco which shall arrive here on
"your account at 70 Livres a hundred. It was pro:
"bably in contemplation of this that ×they had
"pledged their word for it. Our object was to interest
"government here, thro' them, in our Commerce so
"much as to secure their ~~export~~ of utmost protection
"of it, to secure the export of our produce, which we
"apprehended the scarcity of shipping & Sailors would
"render impracticable in our own bottoms, & to
"command, as with a considerable advance of ready
"money, a full supply of Arms, Ammunition,
"Rigging &c. which we might convey with more
"certainty under their protection."

At the same time I wrote to my Colleagues
an account of the contract made with Mr. Morris
&

× they refused to sign the treaty with us after they

& the price that Tobacco bore both in Virginia & in France.
To this I received the following answer from Dr. Franklin
Paris March 2d. 1777 — "We received duly yours of the 16 Feby.
from Nantes.

"The Farmers general since your departure,
"have been again in Treaty with us for Tobacco. We offerd
"(rather rashly I think) to deliver it in France at 8 Sols.
"They offerd five. Interim we received your intelligence
"of its being 20 shil: Sterling pr. Cwt. in Virginia, of course
"we rejected their offer, & we think of treating with
"them no farther but leave them to Mr. Morris, or whom
"they chuse."

After all this information Dr. Franklin &
Mr. Deane concluded a treaty with the Farmers gene-
ral, which I suppose they sent a Copy of to Congress,
for 60 Livres pr. Cwt. instead of 70 which they knew
Mr. Morris had obtaind, with such large al:

allowances (a) as in fact reduced that small sum very much lower. Not a single political point was stipulated or secured. If the agreement had been performed within the time expected it would have been a clear loſs, according to the then current price of Tobacco there; to the public of near two Millions of Livres. If it was not performed, of which indeed there was not the remotest probability, it would beget a bad opinion of our faith, & injure us in future negotiations for the loans that might be neceſsary & which the Farmers general were most likely to supply. The sole object obtained by all these sacrifices was getting a million of Livres into their hands. If it was such at first, it was infinitely more so after the full information they had received. Yet these are the Gentlemen who by secret insinuations, or avowd accusations, by themselves, or their Agents, have been continually villifying others, & arrogating to themselves all knowledge all merit, & all virtue.

(a) It is agreed to furnish York or James River tobacco, to allow them poid de Marc which is 108 of our pounds, & 7 p Ct for sample, full weight &c besides cutting away all that they should determine was damaged.

Paris April 27th 1779

These remarks are made by Dr Lee. The hand writing is Ludwell Lee's, then a resident in his family.

(~~No date~~) April 27
(1779.) (Duplicate.)

Observations (by Dr. A. Lee) on the Contract made with the Farmers General, for the Delivery of 5000 Hogsheads of Tobacco; by the Honble B. Franklin & Silas Deane —

(No 295)

(Among the Duplicates)

Observations
Contr: Farmrs Gen:
no: 2 Cont.

1779

Copy

Sir, Passy April 28th 1779

Being arrived at L'Orient, agreable to the Orders I sent you when at Nantes, you are to join Capt. Jones, put yourself & Ship under his command as your senior Officer, proceed with him on the cruize he is about to make, & obey his orders until your return to France. I heartily wish you success both with regard to profit & honor being &c.

signed B. Franklin

Honble
Capt. Landais

I certify this to be a true Copy from the original
Ludwell Lee

(Copy)

Passy July 28th 1779

Sir, In case the circumstances of the Bon-homme Richard, should make a delay of her sailing necessary of which M. de Chaumont will inform you, I do hereby direct that you proceed to the North Seas by such route as you shall judge most proper and cruise there till the end of Sept.r in such parts as are most convenient for intercepting the northern trade to England, after which you are to go into the Texel, & there wait further orders. With great esteem, & great confidence in your abilities and integrity, I have the honor &c

Hon.ble Capt.n Landais   signed B. Franklin

I certify this to be a true Copy from the original

Ludwell Lee

Copy

Passy Oct.r 15th 1779

Sir,

I received the Letter you did me the ho of writing to me the 4th inst. with an Abstract of your Journal; I thank you for your care in sending it so early, & I congratulate you on the success of your cruize.

But I am sorry to find, there are charges against you for disobedience of Orders, & also that the Ministry here think the great loss among the King's subjects viz. the french Volunteers on board the Bon-homme Richard, was owing to your not coming up sooner to her assistance, as it is supposed you might have done. M. de Sartine has in consequence written to me, that it is expected I should cause an immediate enquiry to be made into your conduct. A Court martial is the regular way if you choose it. But as that may occasion a long discussion, & be in many respects at this time inconvenient to the Service, I have (with the advice too of your friend M. de Chaumont) thought it better to give you an opportunity of justifying yourself, both to the Ministry & to me, by coming directly to Paris which I do hereby accordingly desire or to use a stronger expression as you may think such necessary to justify your leaving your ship, I do require) that you render yourself here as soon as possible. I need not advise you to bring with you, such Papers & Testimonies as you may think proper for your justification. And will only add that you may be sure of finding in me every disposition to do that justice to your character which it shall appear to merit

I have the honor, &c

signed B Franklin

Hon.ble Capt.
Landais

P.S. I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the

the two Prizes you sent to Norway are safely arrived at Bergen.

I certify this to be a true Copy from the original
Ludwell Lee

Captain Landais's Answer.

Please your Excellency

I received the 22d the letter you did me the honor of writing me the 15 inst. & would have complyed with your order enclosd in it immediately, had I not been detained on board one day to overhaul my Papers, & when I came on shore thinking I wanted but half an hour of time to have a Certificate from under the hand of Mr Cottineau Capt. of the Pallas, I found him so ill that he was neither to be spoke to or be seen. I have been ever since waiting for a moment of relief, but it is not come yet. I dont know what to do. To go without that Paper, I may want it; to stay longer I afraid your Excellency or the french Minister woud I am delaying, but I shall do as I have always done for the best for to fulfill your order & follow your advice & go so soon as possible, being fully confident of your justice.

I am with respect Yr Excellency's

P.S. I hope M. de Neuville or M. Dumas will afford with the money I shall want for the journey or else I could not go.

I certify this to be a true Copy from the original. Lud Lee

Extract from the Orders given by his Excellency Dr Franklin to the Honble Capt. Jones dated Passy June 30th 1779 — Being arrived at Groix, you are to make the best of your way with the vessels under your command &c — The Prizes you may make, send to Dunkirk, Ostend, or Bergen in Norway, according to your proximity to either of those Ports. Address them to the persons M. de Chaumont shall indicate to you

a true Copy JnoP. Jones

I certify this to be a true Copy from the original in the hand writing of J. P. Jones to me well known. Lud Lee

Sir,

Philadelphia April 28th 1779

The inclosed Letter from the Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina, committed by Congreſs to the consideration of a committee of three, and which, in the name of the committee, I have now the honor to inclose your Excellency, will shew you the extremity to which our affairs in that quarter are driving. The Committee find a choice of difficulties in this buſineſs, because the reliance on Militia from Virginia having in great degree failed, there appears no remedy but such as will leſsen the force you had a right to expect from Virginia for reenforcing the main army. We have no reason to suppose that a greater force than 1400 militia, perhaps not more than 1000 will go from North Carolina, and of the 1000 ordered by the government of Virginia, we learn that not more than 350 have been obtained. In this state of things, the Committee submit to your Excellencies wisdom, and better knowledge of military affairs and intended operations, the following measures.

That the 2000 new Recruits now in Virginia be forthwith regimented and ordered to join the Southern Army. That a sum of money be sent to Colo. Bland, with orders to reinlist the men of his regiment, and proceed without delay to the same destination. If Sir, this plan should meet

your

your approbation, the Committee are of opinion that the sooner it were carried into execution the better.

Your Excellency will be pleased to return the inclosed letter, and the Committee wish to be favored with your opinion of the eligibility of this measure and if there is a probability of its being soon executed or what additional or other method may occur to your Excellency for relief of the northern states, which we find by conversing with General Howe (who is just arrived here) demands speedy and powerful assistance.

I have the honor to be, with the highest sentiments of esteem and regard, Sir your Excellencies most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee

Copy private

Philada April 29th 1779

Sir

as the Books & Papers of the Comee of foreign Affairs remain on the Table of Congreſs to be used in the public Deliberations which still continue upon a fruitful Subject begun last Sepr. you do not at this time receive any official Letter from that Committee. But I will not omit the good Opportunity by Mr Smith, Son of the Commiſsioner of the Loan Office here, to aſsure you individually of my Regards. I hope you have long before now received yr Credentials as Minister Plenipotentiary from these United States. There was a disagreeable Lentor at first, in the public Proceedings; afterwards, in ſending forward yr Testimonials. From this Source it is I ſuppose, that confidential Communications have not been made to you by the french Court so as to furniſh matter for yr Diſpatches to Congreſs, while such have been made to us in another Chanel. Sir, it behoves you much to let yr Constituents hear often from you, least it ſhould be fully credited amongst us that there is but one ſingle man in the Universe that can be pleasing to the Court of France as a Minister from hence. The Recall of Mr Deane has given birth to very ſingular Writings & Measures. You have escaped all considerable Injuries, though you have been comprehended in ſome propositions not altogether honorary, as you will ſhortly ſee by the Journals which are to be printed weekly. I ought, however, now, to give you the Satiſfaction of knowing that the

Question about yr. Recall was only a kind of neceſsary Consequence flowing from the Adoption of a Fact on which to found a Principle that might destro the Commiſsions of Meſsrs. Lees & Izar particularly Mr. A Lee's. In my Opinion the improper triplicate appointment for the Court of France produced in very natural Consequence "Suspicions & Animosities". But these Evils ought not to be made Reasons for depriving the Public of the Services of Men whose great Abilities Integrity & Industry may be exerted in distinct Trusts without the like future Inconveniencies. — Disappointed Views have generated an Implacability against the falsely-supposed Cause of that Disappointment. Nothing short of the Ruin of the Reputation of Arthur Lee will glut the Malice of a Party formed against him by that Spirit of aſsaſsinating Innuendo which eminently governs his Arch Enemy.

I expect to be able in a few days to communicate to you the Decision of Congreſs in regard to the other Gentlemen, and some particular Instructions for your own Government. I refer you to the Gazettes for a general State of military Proceedings and to common Fame for the ill Condition of our Currency.

I am Sir
yr. most humble Servt
J L

Hon. Doctr. Franklin

(No 326) 1779

The undersigned members of the Congreſs of the United States of North-America, have the honor to inform the said Congreſs. That, upon good grounds having been led to believe, that the conduct of Arthur Lee esqr late, one of the Commiſsioners representing these U. S. at the Court of Versailles, & now sole Commiſsioner to represent the said States at the Court of Madrid, was disgustful to these Courts, unconcilitory to their Subjects, & prejudicial to the honor & interest of the sd States; they were astonished to hear an aſsertion made in Congreſs on the 15th instant by an honorable Member from Maſsachusetts Bay, as from the highest authority in America, that the said Commiſsioner is prepoſseſsed of the confidence of the Court of Versailles; & since, another aſsertion, by another honorable Member from the same State, that the said Commiſsioner is the most proper person to represent the said States at the Court of Madrid: aſsertions, which being made in the debates upon foreign affairs, were made to influence Congreſs to continue the said Arthur Lee esqr as the publick Minister of the said United States to the Court of Madrid, at the expected Negotiations for a general pacification under the mediation of that Court. That the undersigned impreſsed with a conviction, that in such an important conjuncture, the Minister to represent the said State at the Court of ~~Versailles~~ Madrid ought not to be disagreeable to that Court, nor to the Court of Versailles in faithful alliance with these States; & that the interest of the said States demanded, that it should be precisely ascertained, whether or not, the s^d. Commiſsioner was disagreeable to the said Courts; for certain information [redacted] upon the point, they have from the neceſsity of the case, been compelled to Apply to the Minister plenipotentiary of France, residing near Congreſs as the highest source of information in America. That in consequence of such application, the minister plenipotentiary produced the undersigned, an Original Letter to him from the Count de Vergennes Minister for foreign affairs at the Court of Versailles, dated the 29th of Oct. 1778 in which, after having stated intelligence, which has been communicated to Congreſs by the Minister plenipotentiary in feb. last; & after having aſsigned some reasons for not having communicated that intelligence to the American Commiſsioner at Paris, the Count de Vergennes concludes in these terms — "Je vous avouerais d'ailleurs que je crains M. Lee et ses entours" — Besides I confeſs to you, that I fear M^r. Lee & those about him. that the Minister plenipotentiary added, that this consideration induced the Court of Versailles to keep secret from the said Commiſsioner, the intended sailing of the Count D'Estaing for America, untill his fleet was ready to put to sea — that the said Commiſsioner by his conduct on several occasions, created the highest disgust in the Court of Versailles against him — that the Court of Madrid in the closest connections with that of Versailles entertained the same sentiments respecting the said Commiſsioner not only on Account of his conduct in Spain — And in a word, the Minister Plenipotentiary expreſsly declared, that he has every reason to think that neither of those Courts have that confidence in the said Commiſsioner which, is Neceſsary to give acceſs to the negotiatio

ns

of a foreign Minister. The undersigned having received such decisive information from the Minister of France, with Liberty to communicate it to Congreſs; thinks it their indispensable duty to these U. S. & to themselves, to lay the same explicitely before this. the supreme Council of America; to the end, that they may not be misled to continue the said Commiſsioner as the Representative of these U. S. at a court, in the highest manner disgusted at his conduct, & at which, of consequence, his Negotiations must be unsucceſsfull — But, if, unfortunately, it shall be disregarded, they will have the consolation to reflect, that in giving this information, they discharged their duty to the U. S. & that, having given it, they cannot justly be held responsible for the consequences of a measure, but too likely to prove unconciliatory abroad, ruinous to the publick finences at home, & an impediment to a speedy & honorable pacification securing the independence of the U. S. of N- America

Wm Paca- Maryld.
Wm Hy Drayton

Wm Paca, Wm H. Drayton, vs A. Lee.
Copy of their Memorial to Congreſs.

(No 326)

To be put –
(Among the Papers relating to A. Lee
Charge & Defense.)

Paca, Drayton,
Gerard, &c. &c
their plot agst
Ar. Lee esq.

The Under Signed Members of the Congreſs of the United States of North America, have the honor to inform the Said Congreſs:

That upon good grounds having been led to believe, that the conduct of Arthur Lee Esq.r late, one of the Commiſsioners repreſenting these United States at the Court of Verſailles, & now, ſole Commiſsioner to repreſent the Said States at the Court of Madrid, was diſguſtful to those Courts, unconciliatory to their Subjects, and prejudicial to the honor & interest of the Said States; they were aſtoniſhed to hear an aſsertion made in Congreſs on the 15.th Inst. by an honorable Member from Maſsachuſetts bay, as from the highest authority in America, that the Said Commiſsioner is poſseſsed of the confidence of the Court of Verſailles, and ſince another aſsertion by another honorable Member from the ſame State, that the Said Commiſsioner is the moſt proper perſon to repreſent the Said States at the Court of Madrid: aſsertions, which being made in the debates upon foreign affairs, were made to influence Congreſs to continue the Said Arthur Lee Esq.r as the Public Minister of the Said United States to the Court of Madrid, at the expected Negociations for a general pacification under the Mediation of that Court.

That the Under Signed, impreſsed with a conviction, that in ſuch an important conjuncture

the

the Miniſter to repreſent the ſaid States at the Court of Madrid, ought not to be diſagreeable to that Court, nor to the Court of Verſailles in faithful alliance with these States; and that the Intereſt of the ſaid States demanded, that it ſhould be preciſely aſcertained, whether or not, the ſaid Commiſsioner was diſagreeable to the ſaid Courts; for certain information upon the point, they have, from the neceſsity of the case, been compelled to apply to the Miniſter plenipotentiary of France, reſiding near Congreſs, as the higheſt ſource of information in America.

That, in conſequence of ſuch application, the Miniſter plenipotentiary produced to the underſigned, an original letter to him from the Count de Vergennes, Miniſter for foreign affairs at the Court of Verſailles, dated the 29th of October 1778; in which, after having ſtated the intelligence, which has been communicated to Congreſs by the Miniſter plenipotentiary, in February last; and after having aſsigned ſome reaſons, for not having communicated that intelligence to the American Commiſsioners in Paris, the Count de Vergennes concludes in these terms — "Je vous avo[illegible]rai d'ailleurs que je crains M. Lee et ſes entours" - Beſides I confeſs to you, that I fear Mr. Lee, and those about him.

That the Miniſter plenipotentiary added, that this conſideration induced the Court of Verſailles, to keep ſecret from the ſaid Commiſsioners, the intended sailing of the Count d'Estaing for America

until

until his fleet was ready to put to Sea — that the ſaid Commiſsioner, by his conduct on ſeveral occaſions, created the highest diſgust in the Court of Verſailles against him — that the Court of Madrid, in the closest connection with that of Verſailles, entertained the ſame ſentiments reſpecting the ſaid commiſsioner, not only on account of his conduct on thoſe occaſions, but, because of his imprudent conduct in Spain — and, in a word, the Minister plenipotentiary expreſsly declared, that he has every reason to think, that neither of those Courts have that confidence in the ſaid Commiſsioner, which, is neceſsary to give ſucceſs to the negociations of a foreign miniſter.

The under ſigned having received ſuch deciſive information from the Minister of France, with liberty to communicate it to Congreſs, think it is their indiſpenſable duty to the United States, and to themſelves, to lay the ſame explicitly before this the ſupreme Council of America; to the end, that they may not be miſled to continue the ſaid commiſsioner as the repreſentative of these United States at a Court, in the highest manner diſgusted at his conduct, and at which, of conſequence, his negociations must be unſucceſsful. — But if unfortunately, it ſhall be diſregarded, they will have the conſolation to reflect, that in giving this information, they diſcharged their duty to the United States; and that having given it, they cannot justly be held reſponsable for the conſequences

of

of a measure, but too likely to prove unconcil
=tory abroad, ruinous to the public Finances at hon
and an impediment to a Speedy and honorable
Pacification, Securing the Independence of the
United States of North America. ——

Wm. Paca ——
Wm. H. Drayton ——

(Copy)

Information of
Mr. Paca & Mr. Wm. H.
Drayton, respecting
Mr. Arthur Lee, laid
on the table & read April
30. 1779

À Paris le 30 Avril 1779.

Monsieur De Malesherbes prie — Monsieur Lée de lui faire l'honneur de venir diner chez lui Samedy, premier may.

M.r Lée

Pa 8 Sept

The Committee to whom was referred the letter from ~~[illegible]~~ the Lieut Governor of South Carolina having had the same under consideration have agreed upon a report and come to the following reſolutions —

Your Committee having communicated their sentiments upon the subject of giving aid to the States of South Carolina and Georgia to the Commander in chief and taken his sentiments thereupon, and having conferred with Major General Howe whose opinion ~~in fact~~ your Committee find to be: That a considerable and speedy aid is neceſsary to be sent to the said States, therefore

Reſolved That the recruits lately raised and raising in Virginia to complete the said States quota of Troops for the Continental Army be ordered to march without delay to join the Southern Army in South Carolina and Georgia.

Reſolved That Blands and Baylors regiments of light dragoons be ordered on the same service, and that the Colonels of these regiments be authorised and enabled to engage as many men as they have horses and accoutrements to equip.

Reſolved That Mr President write a letter to the Governor of Virginia requesting in the name of Congreſs that the new Levies in Virginia may be furnished with the cloaths promised them by law with all poſsible expedition - And that if this cannot be immediately done, that the State use its influence to induce the Men to proceed with satisfactory aſsurances that the clothing shall follow as speedily as poſsible.

~~Reſolved That as there are but two regiments of the quota of ye continental Troops.~~

Reſolved That as the State of North Carolina hath but two regiments of its quota now with the main Army, it will be expedient to call upon the said State to complete the rest of its quota for the Southern Service in the most expeditious mode. —

Report of the Comittee
abt. defence of Georgia

Copy Letter Book p. 23

To the Hon.ble B. Franklin M. P.

Sir) Paris May 2d. 1779

By Letters this day from Nantes, I am Informd that the Alliance Frigate is Mannd & Ready to Sail; Adverse Winds still detain the Americain fleet at Breast, with its Convoy. As that Convoy is destind to the French Islands, it will of Course leave those Vessels which are Intended for the United States, before they reach the Coast. Yet there it is. that as well from the Enemys Cruisers as from the Multitude of their Privateers lately fitted out, they will run the Greatest risque.

Not only the Public at large is highly interested in the safe arrival of this Fleet, but the State of Virginia depends upon it for supplies essentially necessary for her defence & preservation. The difficulty with which these have been obtaind & the Impossibility of replacing them if lost; make it of the last importance to use every possible means for their protection

For these reasons I presume to submit to your Consideration, wither the Alliance can render a more useful & Acceptable Service to our Country, than by immediatly Joining that Fleet at Brest & Conveying it quite to our ports.

true Copy Compard
A. Gillon

I have the Honor to be &c.
signd Arthur Lee

Answer —

Hon.ble A. Lee Esq.r

Sir) Passy May 3d. 1779

I did Write to the Gentlemen at Nantes concernd in fitting out the Vessels for America offering them the Alliance as a Convoy & Orderd her to Nantes Accordingly. they did not Chuse to accept that Offer Knowing. as I suppose. her weakness but saild for Breast to go with the french Convoy without waiting his arrival & would probably have been gone long before she could have been fitted for Sea, if Contrary winds had not prevented. I wish your Information were true that she is Mann'd & fit for such service. It must be from some person who is unacquainted with the Facts; perhaps Mr Ford. I must Suppose the Merchants are Satisfy'd with the Convoy they have put their Ships under, as I do not learn that they have Applied for one more suitable. I would readely have solicited such an application if I had understood it to be Necessary, being equaally desirous with you of their arriving safe, & sensible of the importance of it. But I have not received a Line from any of them to any such purpose, & Capt Landais has assur'd me that my supposition of his having Men enough to fight his Ship on Occasion, in going home, though not enough to Man prizes on a Cruise, was a great Mistake in my Informer, he then Wanted 150 Men, & I have not since heard of her having recruited more than 40, with the Exchang'd Americans from England. Mr Ford may probably be accommodated in the same Frigate that will take Mr Adams.

I have the Honor to be &c—
signed B. Franklin.

P.S.
I am glad to hear from you,
that the supplies Necessary
for Virginia are Shipp'd.

true Copy Compar'd
A. Gillon

Reply. Letter book No 6. p. 25

The Honble B Franklin
Sir) May 6th 1779

I had not the Honor of receiving your answer till to-day, thought it is dated the 3d. It came by the penny post.

It was by Mr Adams's Information, when on board, that I understood, the Alliance had then (april 29th) a good Crew & I cannot express my Concern on hearing from you that it is otherwise. The persons & properties of so many of our Country Men the valuable Merchandize, & the Essential stores for the United States, & for that of Virginia. which are on Board that Fleet at Brest, are of such infinite importance to our Country; that I cannot help Trembling for their fate, since I have lately learnt that M. la Motte Piquet, will positively protect them no farther ~~th~~ than in his Way to the W Indies. & that our Coast swarms with Privateers fitted out from N York, Rhode Island. & Augustine

The supplies for the State of Virginia. were those, which, as I have often had the Honor of mentioning to you, were Obtain'd some time ago from the Crown. Consisting of Brass Cannon Mortars, Bombs & Bell. The Articles, which my brother Solicited your assistance in procuring. are a second order, & as Necessary for the defence of the State, as the first: which first only I have fulfilled, except in those articles which the House of Pinet engag'd for but did not send.

The Gentlemen going to & shipping Goods for America, I know lamented that their repeated requests thro' the Commissioners to the Ministry for a Convoy quite to America were unsuccessful, they had waited several Weeks, & at a great Expence. in Expectation of it. when the Commissioners sent them a Copy of M. de Sartine's final Answer, to their Reiterated Applications containing these words—"Si ceux qui sont Actuellment a Nantes ayent destination pour les Etats Unies. descendent promptement la Riviere ils seront escortés Jusques au de la des Caps et plus loin encore. c'est a dire, pendant tout le tems qu'ils voudront suivre la route de Convoy des Battements François destinés pour les Isles de l'Amerique"—It was a great Mortification to them. that the Alliance was not Manned, nor any Certainty. when she would be so, which Oblig'd them to put themselves under the French W India Convoy, as the best & only one that then Offerd—

I presume then it was not their being Satisfied with a Convoy half the way, that prevented them Applying to you, since your late Appointment, to Obtain from them a more Sufficient one. but their Knowing that Application had already been often made by you & the other Commiſsioners without Succeſs. It is also probable that their being under sailing Orders in Breast Road, deprived them of Knowing the state the Alliance was in at Nantes, but it is most sure, they would have been Extreemly Happy to have seen her return to Breast as their Convoy. they had every reason to Expect that this would be the Case if she got Men at Nantes, because you had directed them to be informed, that you had given Orders for her to Convoy them. where it was understood the want of Men only prevented. I cannot therefore doubt that the Wishes of all the American Gentlemen, that the Alliance shou'd Convoy them Coincide with mine, tho' Circumstances have prevented them from being Expreſsed.

It was from a perswasion of this, & from an Anxiety for their safety. as well as for that of the important supplies that go with them, that I ventured to submit to you my Opinion of the Utility of Ordering the Alliance immediately to Breast, which I still most earnestly wish may, if possible be done —

Most of these Gentlemen, have already Experienced the Miseries of being made Prisoners; to which there is too much Reason to apprehend they will return, if they are left upon our Coasts without Convoy.

It is a long time too, since Congreſs has Heard from their Servants in Europe. Mr Izard & myself have Written to our Constituents in Expectation of our dispatches going in safety by the Alliance, or under her Convoy, upon Matters in which the public Honor, interest, and Safety are deeply Concern'd.

I am sorry to have troubled you with so long a letter; but out of the fulneſs of the Heart the Tongue speaketh

Speaketh; & I am filld with the most Anxious Concern for the fate of the fleet, if it is to be left unprotected in any part of the Voyage.

true Copy Compar'd
A. Gillon

I have the Honor to be &c

signd A. Lee.

N.B. Mr. A. Lee having waited some time without receiving an Answer to the above Letter; on the 15th of May. I waited on Dr. Franklin to know whether or not he had receiv'd it, his Answer was, that he had, but as the Ships were then sail'd, he did not think it Neceſsary to make any Answer.

signd Lud. Lee.

Observatn The Ships sail'd from Isle Dey near Breast. the 10th of May, the Post is four full days from Breast to Paris, then the date of my Letter was 8 days before. the receipt of that Intelligence. which it is pretended made an answer unneceſsary. The fact is, that the Alliance was Ordered immediately to L'Orient to Join the private Cruisers fitted out by Mr. Chaumont. With regard to her not being Mannd, the Honble Mr. Adams who wrote that she was, had been on board of her for some weeks, had sail'd in her from Breast to Nantes, & spoke from what he saw, nor is it easy to Conceive, that if she was mannd sufficiently to go upon a Cruise, she was unfit to go as a Convoy, which requires fewer Men; since in the Latter case, she was to fight only; in the former, to fight, & Man her prises.

"I cannot withhold my particular thanks to you for having detected his impositions on the public, and exposed the weakness and wickedness of his proceedings. The ~~continuance~~ countenance and support he has received, both from hence and with you are a melancholly presage of the future. Vain, assuming, avaricious, and unprincipled, he will hesitate at no crime to cover what he has committed, and continue his career. His accusations against me were calculated not only to gratify the inveterate hatred he and his friends bear me for the opposition I have given to their corrupt proceedings here, but to take off from the force of my evidence against them, and occupy me in making my defence instead of impeaching them. The atrociousness of this man's conduct will in all probability produce the punishment of his crimes. But there is one here, and another with you, who are older and abler in the business of corruption, and much more likely to bring it to a growth and system that will be our ruin". – (from the book in Dept. of State)

Arthur Lee.

(from book in Dept. of State)

In writing to a friend, May 2. 1779. — Arthur Lee says; "I can with great confidence assure you, that the conduct of M. Gerard is very much disapproved by the Minister, and that any compliments to him on his taking leave will be unpleasing here".

Philadelphia May 2d
1779

In answer to yours received some days ago I must [illegible] my surprise at what is contained in the extracts communicated by you to me. In the first place I declare I never told Stevenson I wished to have the Ships name changed from that of the Deane, nor did I wish it for I entertained an opinion of Mr Deane Different from what I entertained of Mr A. Lee, for I know he had done all in his power to injure me with Doctor Franklin & Mr Deane, and as to the order about the dispatches I have it now & it is not signed by Him. I knew that Mr Stevenson was very angry with Doctor Franklin & Mr Deane because they would not give Him the dispatches for Congress which they sent Express by Captn Hill for you I have often heard you speak of the Commissioners conduct at Nantes & on Shipboard in presence of Mr Stevenson & others and I always heard you declare that Mr Deane had used you extremely ill & very ungratefully in sending out his brother Simeon Deane with the dispatches after they had been promised to you & after you had been mentioned by the French Minister for that purpose. I always heard you speak respectfully of Doctor Franklin & I was present when you had warm words with Mr Stevenson on that Acct. & you may remember I ask'd him what he knew of these Matters who had been at Paris but a few days. As to your speaking respectfully of Mr A. Lee

I never heard you, but on the Contrary you often co him for his Pride & Obstinacy in contradicting & opposing Plan proposed by any body but Himself, in consequence Which I believe Doctr Franklin and Mr Deane thought him out of his head & I have heard Doctr Franklin say he thoug Mr A. Lee was crazy and I am sure it was current enoug at Nantes. I have heard you tell Stevenson that if in consequence of Mr Deanes Trick with regard to his Brother you should appear on your arrival in America not to have the confidence you thought you ought to have that you would lay the whole transaction before the Public, but that otherway you should not make private Quarrels public ones

As to Thornton he was too despicable a creature for you to take Notice of and I remember you made Ross invite him to Dinner on purpose to make him drunk to show what sort of a Secretary Mr Lee ~~trusted~~. as to Loyd I never visited him and this is all I know of the Matter & if this can be of any use in contradicting what I am sure are lies, I shale be always ready to do it on all Occasions

I am &c Sir

Your Obliged & Humble Servt

Copy

Wm Nicholson

Copy of Letter from Captn
Samuel Nicholson to Wm
Carmichael Philadelphia
May 2d. 1779

Inclosed in Mr Carmichael's
information delivered
in May 3. 1779

Sir

Philadelphia May 2d. 1779

In answer to yours received some days ago I must own my surprize at what is contained in the extracts communicated by you to me. In the first place I declare I never told Stephenson I wished to have the ships name changed from that of the Deane, nor did I wish it for I entertained an opinion of Mr. Deane different from what I entertained of Mr. A. Lee, for I know he had done all in his power to injure me with Dr. Franklin & Mr. Deane, and as to the order about the dispatches I have it now & it is not signed by him. I know that Mr. Stephenson was very angry with Dr. Franklin & Mr. Deane because they would not give him the dispatches which they sent express by Capt. Hill for you. I have often heard you speak of the commissioners conduct at Nantes & on shipboard in presence of Mr. Stephenson & others, and I always heard you declare that Mr. Deane had used you extremely ill & very ungratefully in sending out his brother Simeon Deane with the dispatches after they had been promised to you and after you had been mentioned by the French Minister for that purpose. I always heard you speak respectfully of Dr. Franklin & I was present when you had warm words with Mr. Stephenson on that account & you may remember I asked him what he knew of these matters who had been at Paris but a few days. As to your speaking respectfully of Mr. A. Lee, I never heard you, but on the contrary you often condemned him for his pride & obstinacy in contradicting & opposing every plan proposed by any body but himself, in consequence of which I believe Dr. Franklin & Mr. Deane thought him out of his head, & I have heard Dr. Franklin say he thought Mr. A. Lee was crazy and I am sure it was current enough at Nantes. I have heard you tell Stephenson that if in consequence of Mr. Deanes trick with regard to his brother you should appear on your arrival in America not to have the confidence you thought you ought to have that you would lay the whole transaction before the public, but that otherwise you should not make private quarrels public ones. — As to

Thornton he was too despicable a creature for you to take notice of and I remember you made Ross invite him dinner on purpose to make him drunk to shew what sort of a Secretary Mr. Lee trusted. As to Loyd I nev visited him and this is all I know of the matter and y this can be of any use in contradicting what I am sin are lies, I shall be always ready to do it on all occasion

Copy of a Copy

I am D.r Sir &c.

S. Nicholson

S. Nicholson of the Deane Frigate to

Wm Carmichael —

Carmichaels
paper to Congress
S. Nicholsons Letter
to Carmichael.
Copy
4
No. 4

May 3. 1779.

The Committee appointed by Congreſs to examine into the State of their foreign affairs having thought proper to refer to the underwritten for information on the charges they reported against some of their public Servants abroad & some Gentlemen having expreſsed a desire he should reduce to writing the information he gave the house in his place, when these charges were read. He is induced to indulge their wishes as well to shew more explicitly the reasons which directed his voice on the decision of a question in which he conceives the honor & interest of the United States highly depends. He has frequently declared that Mr A. Lee had not the confidence of the Court of France. His reasons for this declaration are among others, the Chevalier Grand & his Brother Mr Grand, Gentlemen who at various times acted as secret agents between the Commiſsioners & the Court of France, in whose assertions he placed confidence because he saw that the Court intrusted them with secrets of the highest importance, & because he never found himself deceived by these Gentlemen in any other information he had the honor to receive from them, while employed by the Commiſsioners abroad. He was informed & believes, that this want of confidence arose from information given by Mr Garnier Chargé des affaires for the Court of Versailles at London. That Shelburne & Mr A. Lee left London together to visit France immediately after the arrival of Mr Deane

in

in that Country. He believes that the Court was confirmed in
these suspicions by Mr. Lee's visit to Ld. Shelburne while
at Paris, & he knows that several of high rank were alarmed
& apprehensive that the secrets of the Court would be betrayed
from his connections with the opposition in England,
as will appear from the following Extract of instructi-
-ons given by the Count D'Estaing to Mr. Deane at the
very time Ld. Shelburne was at Paris. A Copy of the
instructions is in the hand of the underwritten,
transcribed from the original by Col. Nicholas Rogers
of Maryland & himself, when he received a Meſsage from
the Count D'Estaing desiring him to return it. 'L'unité
secrette des interêts qui existe entre la France & L'Es-
pagne et les Americains etant plus necessaire que
celle qui attache les Anglois de l'opposition au sort de
l'Amerique il en resulte que M. Deane doit avoir plus
de confiance dans ces deux puiſsances que dans les parti-
culiers qui ne veulent uniquement que chasser des Mi-
nistres pour les remplacer. Il semble auſsi que la con-
fiance dans les Membres de l'opposition ne doit pas
aller jusqu'a leur dire tout ce que la France et l'Espagne
font ou promettent de faire. L'Esperance de causer une
revolution dans le Ministre Anglois suffiroit peutêtre
pour en rendre la publication auſsi avantageuse au
parti de l'opposition qu'elle sera nuisible a l'Amerique,
rien est plus a redoutter que de voir la bonne volonté
changer en mefiance, car en negotiation la mefiance

eloigne

aigris ainsi que [illegible] l'approche. Il semble aussi qu'il faut soigneusement eviter de compromettre, d'embarasser une grande puissance sur des petits objets et cela dans le tems qu'on en espere des grands services: C'est encore sur ce point important que les veritables interets de l'Amerique different de ceux de son opposition. This suspicion was further confirmd by Mr. Lee's connection with Ct. de Lauraguais of whom Ct. D'Estaing speaks in the following manner in the piece above mentiond "Excepté son intime liaison avec M. le Cte Lauraguais et que l'amitié de ce dernier pour my Ld Shelburne dont l'adresse et les projets sont connus pourroit faire transpirer ce que le Ministre de France voudroit qui fut ignoré sans que cet accident arrive par sa faute ni par le Canal des chargés des affaires de l'Amerique." Mr. Lee himself was so sensible of this suspicion that he wrote to Monsr. le Cte de Vergennes & Monsr. Gerard on the subject which letter was carried by the underwritten to the Bureau for foreign affairs at Versailles & Mr. Lee received an answer a copy of which no doubt he transmitted to some one of his Correspondents on this side the Atlantic. Ld Shelburne is particularly disagreeable to the Bourbon Courts, because he formd the design of exciting a revolt in Mexico & for this purpose pensiond a french Nobleman a Major General in the service of France who had offerd his aid to effect this from his acquaintance with

with the principal Inhabitants of this part of the New World & the underwritten was informed that the Count D'Estaing alluded to this project in the above Extract. The favorable notice taken of the underwritten in consequence of the strong recommendations of the Marquis De la Fayette to his family & their connections gave him an opportunity of knowing the sentiments of many persons of high rank & influence & theirs corresponded entirely with what has been before related. The consideration which the underwritten enjoyd from their notice will appear from the letter annexed which he would have blushed to have placed on the files of Congress had they not been already loaded with perfidious representations of his conduct & as he hopes unmerited. The same Gentlemen & others informed him that Mr Lee was equally disagreeable to the Count D'Aranda & he knows that the Spanish Minister at the Hague expressed his chagrin on hearing that Mr Lee was appointed Commissioner to Spain in the place of Dr Franklin. Count D'Aranda declared that Mr Lee's intended visit to Madrid was known to most of the Bankers there before he quitted the French Dominions & that this notoriety occasioned the English Embassador to expostulate with the Spanish Ministry which induced the necessity of sending a Gentleman to meet him at Burgos. It was well known in England that Mr Lee was gone to Spain as will appear by the following Extract of a letter from

Bancroft

May 1779.

[illegible] to the underwriter, dated London Septr 8th 177

Mr Sayre is now out of confinement & desirous of some kind of employment out of England, probably he will pay his friends a visit — He regrets that Prince Arthur left France. Ld Shelburne told Ld Camden that he was sent to Spain on account of his connections with him & Ld Shelburne. The animosities among the Commissioners are so publickly known that the underwriter deems it unnecessary to enlarge on the subject. He cannot however omit observing that jealousies & suspicions took place before Mr Lee's appointment between that Gentleman & Mr Deane as will appear from a Letter of the former to the underwriter dated Oct. 1776 a copy of which is in the possession of the House being put into the hands of the Committee to whom were referred the Letters of Messrs Lee, Franklin, Deane & Izard respecting the underwriter. He begs leave to produce an extract of a Letter in answer to Mr Lee in which he endeavored to remove his jealousies & he appeals to Mr Deane if he did not write to him about the same time to remove the cause by writing frequently to Mr Lee. The extract is as follows from a Letter written from Amsterdam dated Novr 10. 1776 — Believe me my Dear Sir that any thing which is likely to hurt the common cause gives me as well as yourself much uneasiness. I know no other reason for Mr Deane's silence than the busy life he leads, as that he treated while I resided with him he [illegible]

by

by my means answer with punctuality to your Letter. I believe no difference subsists between him & your Brother in America; what has happend since I left Paris I am ignorant &c &c &c. The underwritten thought these jealousies & animosities disgraceful because they impeded the transaction of public business & because they were so public as to be known to almost every Frenchman & American who visited either of the Commissioners; injurious because being known to your Enemies. If Dr. Berkenhout is to be credited they prevented an application to your Commissioners to bring about a reconciliation until Dr. Lee could inform him that this difference would not render an application ineffectual, or to that purpose injurious in another way, because our Enemies were encouraged to prosecute the War on a supposition that these jealousies & animosities would render our negotiations at the French Court unsuccessful. This will appear from the following Extract of a Letter from Mathew Ridley to the underwritten dated London Novr. 18-1777 — "It has already been held out here that your Councils are weak, that dissention prevails among you, that Congress in their appointments of Men of such jarring tempers must have discovered a great want of judgment & that this circumstance must in time without other assistance effectually ruin your plans. This held out without real knowledge or information to spirit the people here in prosecuting the war, in some measure it has its effect.

[illegible]. If so in this State of it, how much more so when they think they have real foundation. The underwritten is sorry to repeat what abundant evidence in the poſseſsion of the House has already told them of the unconciliatory disposition of Mr. Lee; tis sufficient to know that he disgusted the French Court, his Colleagues Meſsrs Franklin & Deane, Meſsrs Chaumont & Beaumarchais, Holker & the two Grands all men in confidence of the Court, besides Bancroft, Moylan, Roſs, Williams, Jones, Nicholson & many others whom it is needleſs to mention. The underwritten would be still more sorry to record little anecdotes which would disgrace your files, the persons of whom they are related & even the relator. If however any Gentlemen are interested or desirous of further information he aſsures them on his honor that he will give them in private every satisfaction which such curiosity requires. The originals of the copies produced may be seen by any Gentlemen who choose to apply to the underwritten. The late debates in Congreſs on the subject of conversations with the Minister might excuse the underwritten from commenting on the attempt made to misrepresent his sentiments while abroad. He cannot help observing however that it must appear very extraordinary that he should say

to

to men he scarce knew & saw but seldom, which one
of the Gentlemen who were his friends & constant companions at Nantes cannot recollect altho one of them lived in the house with him for some time. He will content himself with submitting copies of their Letters to him on the subject, of the extracts & copies of a Letter he received by Thornton from Mr. A. Lee with the answer he returned by the same person who stayed but two days at Nantes & leave to the Candid to judge whether he could in the temper of mind he then was, speak in the manner he is represented to have done.

(Signed) Wm. Carmichael

Phila. May 3.d 1779

True Copy

The underwritten has frequently declared that Mr. Ar. Lee had not the confidence of the Court of France. His reasons for this declaration are among others, ~~that~~ the Chevalier Grand & his Brother Mr. Grand, Gentlemen who all at various times acted as secret Agents between the Commissioners & the Court of France, in whose assertions he placed confidence because he saw that the Court intrusted them with secrets of the highest importance & because he never found himself deceived by these Gentlemen in any other information he had the honor to receive from them, while employed by the Commissioners abroad. He was informed & believes, that this want of confidence arose from information given by M. Garnier Chargé des affaires for the Court of Versailles at London. That Shelburne & Mr. A. Lee left London together to visit France immediately after the arrival of Mr. Deane in that Country. He believes that the Court was confirmed in these suspicions by Mr. Lee's visit to Lord Shelburne while at Paris & he knows that several of high rank were alarmed & apprehensive that the Secrets of the Court would be betrayed by this connection with the Opposition in England as will appear from the following Extract of instructions given by the Count D'Estaing to Mr. Deane at the very time Ld. Shelburne was at Paris. A copy of the instructions is in the hands of the underwritten, transcribed from the original by Col. Nicholas Rogers of Maryland & himself when he received a message from Count D'Estaing desiring him to return it. "L'unité secrette des interêts qui existe entre la France et l'Espagne et les Americains

caine étant plus necessaire que celle qui attache les Anglois de l'Opposition au sort de l'Amerique. Il en resulte que M. Deane doit avoir plus de confiance dans ces deux puissances que dans des particuliers qui ne veulent uniquement chasser des Ministres pour les remplacer. Il semble aussi que la confiance dans les Membres de l'Opposition ne doit pas aller jusqu'à leur dire tout ce que la France et l'Espagne font ou promettent de faire. L'esperance de causer une revolution dans le Ministre Anglois suffiroit peut être pour en rendre la publication aussi avantageuse au parti de l'Opposition qu'elle seroit nuisible a l'Amerique; rien n'est plus a redoutter que de voir la bonne volonté changer en méfiance; car en negociation la méfiance éloigne ceux que l'interest approchent. Il semble aussi qu'il faut soigneusement eviter de compromettre une grande puissance sur des petits objets, et cela dans le tems qu'on en espere des grandes services; C'est encore sur ce point important que les veritables interêts de l'Amerique different de ceux du parti de l'Opposition.

This suspicion was farther confirmed by Mr. Lee's connection with Count de Lauragais, of whom Count D'Estaing speaks in the following manner in the piece above mentioned—"Sa conte son intime liaison avec M. le Cte Lauragais, et que l'amitié de ce dernier pour my Ld Shelburne dont l'addresse et les projets sont connus pouvoit faire transpirer ce que le Ministre de France voudroit qui fut ignoré sans que cet accident arrive par la faute ni par le canal des chargé des affaires de l'Amerique"—Mr. Lee himself was so sensible of this suspicion that he wrote to M. le Comte de Vergennes or M. Gerard on the subject; which

letter

Letter was carried by the underwritten to the Bureau for foreign affairs at Versailles, & Mr. Lee received an answer a copy of which no doubt he transmitted to some one of his Correspondents on this side the Atlantic. Lord Shelburne is particularly disagreeable to the Bourbon Courts, because he formed the design of exciting a revolt in Mexico & for this purpose pensioned a french Nobleman a Major General in the service of France who had offered his aid to effect this from his acquaintance with the principal inhabitants of that part of the New world & the underwritten was informed that the Count D'Estaing alluded to this project in the above extract. The honorable notice taken of the underwritten in consequence of the strong recommendations of the Marquis de la Fayette to his family & their connections gave him an opportunity of knowing the sentiments of many persons of high rank & influence, & theirs corresponded entirely with what has been before related. The consideration which the underwritten enjoyed from their notice will appear from the Letters annexed which he would have blushed to place on the files of Congreſs, had they not been already loaded with groſs imputations of his conduct & as he hopes unmerited. The same Gentlemen & others informed him that Mr. Lee was equally disagreeable to the Count D'Aranda, & he knows that the Spanish Minister at the Hague expreſsed his chagrin on hearing that Mr. Lee was appointed Commiſsioner to Spain in the place of Dr. Franklin. Count D'Aranda declared that Mr. Lee's intended visit to Madrid was known to most of the Bankers there before he quitted the french Dominions & that this notoriety occasioned the English Ambaſsador to expostulate with the Spanish Ministry wch induced the neceſsity of sending a Gentleman to meet him at Burgos.

Philadelphia May 3d 1779 signed Wm Carmichael

L'Orient May the 3d 1779.

(No 296)

Sir.

Tho my last journey to Paris was undertaken was sudden, and my Stay there extremely short – Yet I should not I Assure you have failed in my Duty so far as not to have waited on you, but that I expected to have made a longer stay, and actually tho my endeavours were not wanting did not obtain your address till the very evening when I received orders to depart instantly – when I last saw you I remember you were so obliging as to promise that before my departure from France, you would send me such intelligence as might come within your Knowledge, and could give me a chance of rendering service to our cause. the sooner you would oblige me in that respect, the better, because my Armament is now far advanced, and tho I have not yet received particular orders, I hope before long to see the land of freedom beyond the Atlantic. it would be an additional favor if you can spare me a Copy of the rules of our Navy, because my good friends in the Ranger carried with them the Only one I had besides.

I shall expect some time hence to have the honor of Seeing you in Spain – In the mean time if I can render you any acceptable Service you may freely command.

Sir

Your very obedient
and most humble Servant

Jno P Jones

His Excellency M. Lee.

A son Excellence Monsieur

Monsieur Lee

a l'hotel D'Espagne rue
Geneuseaux.

a Paris —

10

L'ORIENT

L'ORIENT

Capt. Jones

(No 296)

J. P. Jones
to
M. Lee.
20
(3: May 1779.)

Copy

25

Dear Sir, Philadelphia May the 3d 1779

Always attentive to your commands I have obtained here, and now inclose you the song and the receipt you desired. I once had both of them at home, but they are mislaid among a mass of papers, so that I could find neither previous to my leaving Chantilly, or your request would then have been complied with. I hope you have received the pamphlet I sent you some weeks ago entitled "Observations on the American revolution," containing a collection of the most material congress papers with a few remarks interspersed, in order to shew in one comprehensive view the progress of our glorious revolution, and to rectify some false representations of the British Commissioners. This pamphlet was sent by an Express that came here from Mr. Harvey, and returned to Williamsburg with intention to follow Mr. Harvey to Albemarle if he found him not at the former of these places. I wish it were in my power to entertain you with news, but we are here as void of it as if profound peace reigned throughout the world. We have not heard from Europe for four months, and altho' there then seemed a disposition in many Powers to restore the general tranquility, yet all were industriously preparing for war, and some being actually engaged, the fate of millions hung in doubtful ballance. The

The armies here continue quiet within their quarters. That of the enemy by their late embarkation of nine regiments, rendered too weak for taking the field, must content itself with holding N. York as the Gibraltar of N. America. If we can baffle the Southern invasion, i clear to me that the game will be presently up with our enemies, a that they will be compelled by inevitable necessity to be content w the Loss of thirteen flourishing states. A very fit consequence of the foolish and wicked attempt to reduce to slavery so many fre useful, and affectionate friends. I hope that when you and my oth friends consider all things, that you will not blame me for sen my resignation to the Assembly. I am realy injured in my health such continued, close application; and a long neglected numerous family demands some attention. Add to these, that persecuted as I have been by the united voice of toryism, peculation, faction, envy, m and all uncharitableness, nothing but the certain prospect of do essential service to my country can compensate for the injuries I receive. It would content me indeed to sacrifice every considera to the public good that would result from such persons as yours Mr. Wythe, Mr. Mason and some others being in Congress. I would wi persevering ardor press thro every difficulty in conjunction with such As- -ciates. I am informed that Coll Blackburn intends to propose a b this Session for the relief of Landlords - I should suppose that the wis and justice of the Legislature can and will devise some remedy for the su of this class of people among us. I am one, who have the misfortune to myself and family nearly ruined by the retrospective effect of our Law. Almost the whole of my landed estate was rented out some years before war for low cash rents, and under the faith of existing Law which secu me Specie for my rents. The vast sums of paper money that have been issued this being now a tender for the discharge of rents growing from old contracts fro the consequent depreciation, has well nigh effected an entire transfer of my estate to my Tenants. This year Sir, the rents of 4000 acres of fine Land will not buy me 20 barrels of Corn! I am very far from desiring that the Law should place these contracts litterally as they were, but substantially so, it seems just that they should be. When the Tenant agreed to pay me £6. an hun rent, he could not sell his Tob: for more than 16 or 18 shillings an hundred — Now he sells his Tob: for £10 & 12 per Cent. It doesnt appear to me that the public good can be concerned in thus transferring the property of Landlords to their Tenants — But public justice demands that the true meaning and genuine spirit of contracts should be complied with. It appears to me that an Act of Commutation might set this business right by directing the payment in produce at the prevailing price of such produce when the Contracts were made, leaving this to be settled by the Courts annually as they formerly did in the case of exchange. I well know your love of justice to be such that your approbation will be given to any proper plan for doing right in the premisses. For my own part, I am willing to suffer every thing rather than injure the public cause, but in the present state of things I can see no possibility of public injury from thus rendering private justice.

I am with much esteem and regard dear Sir your most obedient and very humble servant

Richard Henry Lee.

L'Orien[illegible]ay 5th 1779

(No 297)

Dear Sir

I did myself the Honour of writing to you on Monday last acquainting you I had left Capt. Jones, by Heaven ~~I would~~ I would not sail with him for all Europe, I also begd an introduction to the Marquies De La Fayett I since learn he is not a coming; the French Fregate is expected to sail within a week with the French Ambassador if I could go with him, I shall have an opportunity of gratifying my revenge, and an early opportunity of assisting congress to detect our Enemies. by the foolish scheme of Quixotism I have got myself about fifty Guineas in debt, I inclosed you a letter from Mr. Schweighauser who would lend me the money could I insure its being paid by any particular time, I know of no one but you or Col. Mercer to whome I could apply to, ~~if~~ through your interest I get the money I shall gratefully remit it as soon as I get home.

I am Dear Sir Your most Obedient & very Humle

Alexr. Dick

Alexr Dick
to
Arthur Lee
(5th May 1779.)

(No 297)

L'ORIENT

To
The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr
Hotell d'Espagne
Paris

Head Quarters Middle Brook May 5th: 1779

Gent.n

I have the honor to transmit to your care an Open Letter for Brigad. General Scott, by which you will perceive that I have directed the Levies in Virginia to be formed into three Batallions and to be officered & marched under his command, to reinforce the Southern Army, as soon as circumstances will possibly permit. I give you this trouble, lest these directions should interfere with any arrangements you may have made — and that they may be added to or altered if you should think it expedient in any point. The sooner the Letter can reach General Scott the better. He will be it is probable, either at Alexandria or Fredericksburg; but the Ex.press who carries it, should be directed to proceed with it till he finds him. I beg leave to mention the subject of Arms again, and persuade myself the Committee will cause every proper measure to be pursued for supplying these Levies with all possible expedition. Such of the Officers as are mentioned in the list contained in the Letter to Genl Scott, who are in Camp, will proceed to Virginia without delay. — I make no doubt the Committee have given Orders respecting Blands & Baylor's Regiments, if they chose that they should go.

I have the Honor to be with great respect

Gentm

Yr Most Obed Servt

G: Washington

Honble R. H. Lee, Henry Laurens Esqr
Thos Burke, Esqrs

(On publick service)

The Honble Richd. H. Lee. Henry Laurens & Thos Burke Esqrs

Members of Congreſs

at

Philadelphia

314/2

Go: Waſhington

Gen. Washington
5th May 1779
about defence of
Georgia & S. Carolina

155a

G.W 1779

155

Williamsburg may 7th 1779
(No 304)

My Dear Sir

I hope you did Received my letter by which I was beging the favour of you, to Reclam at the post office in Philadelphia a very large paquet of letters arrived from france for me, which has been Keep here ſome time, and ſend to philadelphia. it ſhould be a great misfortune for me to loſe that paquet for I am in a ſuch ſituation that I do not know what parti to take. I am Confident ſir you will have done every thing in your power to find that paquet and to ſend to me as ſoon as poſsible. I will be ſo thankfull for it, as I allways been for all what you done to prove me your good friendſhip to me —

all your true friend deſir very much to ſee you here. Mr. henry lee told me last night that you was in a very great Charecther in the opinion of all the delagates and they wishs to ſee you appointed Governor of virginia, what I wish with all my heart as well for the good of your Contry, as for your advantage, and Reputation.

I am with a very great affection and Regard

My dear ſir

Your most humble ſervant
and friend
De Loyauté

Col. Loy

Wm 9

to

the honourable Richard
henry lee member of
Congress

in philadelphia

Do XX 195

18
30
540

1775

Mr. Loyaute
May 7th 1779.

~~(195)~~
(No 304)

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[illegible]

War Office May 7. 1779.

(No 315)

Sir

"In anſwer to your requeſt of this day, I have the honour to inform you, that notwithſtanding the total diſappointment of an ample ſupply of arms expected ere this time from France, yet enough were collected & repaired to anſwer the uſual demands of the army: but the unlooked for & preſsing calls from the ſouthward has obliged us to ſend thither 2620 ſtands. The demand from camp to ſupply deficiencies was for upwards of twelve hundred for which & for recruits & draughts, 3000 were asked for, of which between 18 and 19 hundred have been ſent on. Other neceſsary iſsues to different quarters will amount to upwards of 600. Theſe various draughts have reduced our ſtock to a ſmall number, not more than one third of what will be neceſsary for the Virginia recruits now ordered to the ſouthward. All hands are indeed buſily engaged in repairs: but we cannot promiſe an adequate ſupply for ſome time to come. It appears to me, therefore, abſolutely neceſsary to open the ſtate ſtores of Virginia, where I have heard there is a large quantity of arms laid up. I know of no other means of obtaining a ſpeedy ſupply, without which the occaſion

for

for the most important services of those recruits may be lost.

I am Sir

very respectfully

your most obedt. servant

Tim: Pickering

In behalf of ye board

Honble

R. H. Lee Esqr.

Col. Tim. Pickering (Mass)

(~~No. 346.~~) (N° 305). May 7th 1779

(Arms for Va volunteers

May 1779
Colo. Pickering of
the Board of War

N° 346

The Hon'ble
Richard Henry Lee Esqr

T. Pickg
S. Ward } R.I.
N. Brown
D. Marchand
Corn. of N.Y. to Corn. of Boston
Ephr. Blaine

Arthur Lee Esqr
Paris

Bordeaux 8 May 1779

Sir

I am obliged to you for the 2 Botles of Blagues inclosed in your favour of the 27th Captain Robinson in the General Mercer arrived here the 5th Inst. he delivered me the inclosed packets received from R. H. L with particular injunctions to get them safe to your hands, he is come to my address I shall dispatch him with all possible diligence and hope he will not remain more that three weeks. Admiral La Motte Piquet arrived at Isle D'aix the 1st Instant what stay he will make there we know not he has with him all the American Ships from Brest, Nantes & this Fleet consists of five Ships of the line & frigates a number of Armed Merchant Men we may therefore flatter ourselves of having our three Ships who are under his Convoy duly protected, Captain Robinson has given me no intelligence but what you undoubtedly will receive in your packets

The

The Ship Legere that took out the last five hundred Suits Cloaths &c was taken on her Passage out

There are no publick Letters on board the General Mercer but many private. President Laurens and John Penn of No Carolina have had a Duel the cause is said to spring from difference of Opinion of Deanes publications it appears he wants to come to Europe but meets with Obstructions, pray how does Mr Izard and family we hear no mention of Charles Town not a vessel appears in Europe from that State

I am respectfully

Sir Your very hble Servant

John Bondfield

Sir

Our affair with Mr De Malesherbes Will, most likely, succeed better than expected. But to settle it fully, it is necessary that we may have a conversation with him, & the only proper time is monday next about noon.

I wish, Sir that you may be at liberty to call upon me, a little after eleven ~~on~~ Monday next, or in other words, the day after to morrow and we —

will together call on mr de malesherbes

(traduite d'essai dans mon anglois

J'ay l'honneur de vous dire Monsieur que si vous voulez venir me prendre lundi prochain, ou apres demain, un peu apres onze heures, nous irons chez mr de Malesherbes ou je crois que nous pourrons arranger a votre satisfaction toutes les choses dont nous avons parlé ce matin.

Vous connaissez Monsieur les Sentimens avec lesquels &c.

Samedy 8 may

Dear Sir;

Nantes 10 May 1779

I am Just now favoured with your Letter of 4 Inst & shall in consequence, there sett off, to morrow to Lorient & then embark in a Vessell bound to America.

The letter alluded to, in my certificate, was brought to me, in my bed in London, by Mr William Blake of Jamaica; he assured me, it was given him by Mr Joseph Wharton & that Wharton had told him, it was written by Docr Bancroft ~~to him~~; I did consider it, as Bancroft's Letter, & will give my affidavit that I do verily believe it was written by him (Bancroft) — I shall be at Lorient for 12 Days & will be happy to take charge of any letters for America I am with sincere Respect Dear Sir Your Most Hble Servt

M Livingston

The Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esq

In

Paris —

No. 3

Livingston
in support of
his ~~Affidavit~~
Certificate

Dear Sir

Abbé Rolin will wait for us tomorrow morning. if you are at liberty to go thither, I expect you at ten o'clock. I desire not to be later, as I have an appointment about one o'clock at a place pretty far from his. Be so good as to let me know what is agreeable to you.

I have heard to say that the reason why the treaty at Teschen

is not as yet over, is because we
Wish to have the american
independance acknowlidged by
the northern powers. on the
other hand they want to Get
from us the Same declaration on
the division of Poland.

I own that I am Extremely
inclined to Give credit ~~faith~~ to that
report as it appears ~~every one Refuses~~
that as to the occasion of the
war all the parties have received
What they Wished to have.

I am &c.

~~friday~~ saturday may
ye 15th

Dr. Bn.   (No 298) Bruxelles 17 May. 1779.

This day while under a smart fever & almost insupportable headach, occasion'd by lying in wet sheets, your favor of the 11th. & its inclosure were deliver'd to me. As I wd. not wish, if it can be avoided, to put myself at the Mercy of 54, or even 59.111 — which I ~~apprehend~~ presume wd. be the case if I came to 129 to settle the business with S. P. I have therefore fix'd on Lisle for the place of meeting from whence in half an hour we can be in another Dominion. The inclosed Letter you will please therefore to deliver, seal'd or unseal'd as you judge right, on the 24th. inst., and as the distance is only 27½ Posts & good road, he can have no excuse about the time. If he comes, can I get the favor of you to meet me there also, for I shall be otherwise alone, having no acquaintance with me, & not knowing any one in this Country.

If Mr. Ford is with you now, he wd. do very well, provided any circumstance shou'd prevent you from coming, for I have not any sufficient right to request such a favor of 90.— If S. P. does not come you will please to let me hear from you, by a Line addressed à Monsieur Lée, restant a la poste des Lettres á Lisle en Flandre where I propose to be on the 26th & to wait there the 27th, unless I see or hear from you sooner; at the same time perhaps you may be able to tell if the consequences might not be very troublesome, if not capitally dangerous provided the issue of this business is in the first instance fatal to either party, on its being determin'd at 129, or even in Ba— 58.— I have read over calmly again & again my first Letter to P.— in which I cannot find any part which ought to have been alter'd, nor one expression harsher than the subject merited — his reply seems to me a convincing proof of Conscious Guilt.

I thank you sincerely for the pains you have already taken in this business & beforehand for that which you are to take. I shall leave this place the day after tomorrow. Farewell.

the Letter for Mr. De Marbois, I could wish you to deliver yourself as it wd. be well to impress him with proper Ideas, for I understand the Cabinet has great dependence on his Sagacity & abilities, tho' the Principal stands extremely well in character, among the Corps (Diplomatique). You will Oblige me also by giving Mr. De Marbois some Letters of Introduction.

Honourable Arthur Lee Esqr.
Hotel d'Espagne Rue Guénégaud
a Paris.

(No 298)

Wm Lee to A.L.
May 17th 1779.

1779

May 19th. — Dr. Franklin had written
him a letter declining to give him
any recommendation, as foreign
officers had been a very heavy ex-
pense to the United States, &
he might have been of service
in the beginning, but not now.
Upon this the general observed
that his offer was to go at his
own expense & to serve with-
out pay, & that he had ap-
prised Dr. Franklin in the
beginning of his willingness
to go over & serve.

In our judgment however
both the French Court & Dr.
Franklin acted wisely.

20th. M. de Beaumarchais's
Clerk, (an Italian) informed me,
before Messrs. Izard & Brough,
that the Ship, the Duke du Cha-
telet, wh. was blown up some
months ago at Nantes, was
laden for the United States. that

the Ship belong'd to M. de
Beaumarchais & Montieu
the Cargo to Messrs. Chau-
mont, Beaumarchais & Mon
tieu & Williams, & that
neither of them he believ'd
was insured. He said M. de
Beaumarchais had nine
Ships laden with Wine
Flower &c for the French
Islands, in La motte Piquet's
Convoy, that the fier Ro
drigue & le Zephyre were
armed for fighting & had
no Goods.

June the 4th. A Gentleman
in an important office at
the Court of Versailles, dined
with Mr Lee this day, & declared at
table, that Count de Ver

gennes highly disapproved of Mr. Deane's Address to the Citizens of America, and that the presents & Letters given him were in consequence of his having been the first who took leave of the Court after the conclusion of an Alliance between the two Countries, & that whoever had been this Commissioner would have had the same Compliment.

Letters &
original p. of
Ar. Lee
& Letters
of Jo. Adams
various, Corres
pondents
S. Adams J. Adams
A. Lee 74. 84
Letter about
Deane

Hon.ble Richard H. Lee Esq. / Bordeaux 20 May 1779

[No 305]

Sir

Since mine of the 29 March and 16 Ulto. arrived at this Port the General Mercer, Capt. Robinson who gave me in charge the packet you deliver'd him directed for W.m A L which I duely forward. Inclosed you have two Letters one from A L the other from W L both letters I have had by me many Days from the want of opportunity to forward them — it is with Concern we have seen the effect of Mr Deans imprudence giving thereby the most convincing proof of his this ~~impropriety of in~~ unfitness to discharge the appointment he filled in the European department and the justness of his recal as all the Calumnies he has publish'd are founded on suppositions and being groundless will of course bring on himself the contempt due to his Conduct as part of his charge against Mr William Lee glances obliquely on the appointment I received from

Mr Lee as his deputy at this port I hold it incumbent in justice to him as also to myself to expunge that part of the charge in consequence I inclose to you a Certificate (Duplicate I have transmitted to Mr Lee) which you will will please to lay before the Committee of Congress charged with the examination of this affair,

Monsieur La Motte Piquet sailed from I.l D'Aix the 7 Inst. he has with him five Ships of the Line five Frigates Sixty Arm'd Transports eight Thousand Troops also many American private Ships you will undoubtedly have heard of him ere the receipt of this

An expedition from St Malo went against Jersey the alarm was given in England the Fleet destined for North America under Admiral Arbuthnot was sent to relieve the Island by which a diversion was given that will retard the departure of the Ships from Europe at least a Month and will thereby give Mr. La Motte Piquet leasure to execute his mission without interruption

Peace in Germa e establ ed by which England & France ly extending Powers The unfunded debt which its said amounts to upwards of Twenty Million Sterling will cramp the Operations in Great Britain and force her to accept of terms which the longer defered become the more ruinous. Ireland appears ripe to tread in the path of America they have ~~fourt~~ entered into a Confederation not to consume or import any of the Manufactures of England until their remonstrances are attended too, so that what with open War, private Cabals, and empty Treasury Great Britain casts a most dismal Aspect how unforeseen events may change the prospect time only can evince for probabilities are against her. we flatter ourselves Convoys will be establish'd to protect our Trade with you and thereby enable us to renew our operations your way which the Obstructions of late have totaly stagnated I have the honor to be respectfully Sir your very hbl Servant

John Bondfield

t this post
also to my

1779

No. 26

Honble Richd H. Lee
at
Congress

20th May 1779
Mr Bondfeild of
Bordeaux with his
Certificate of the falsehd
of Silas Deanes charge
agst Wm Lee inclosed.

Jno Bondfield
(of Bordeaux)
20th May 1779
to R.H. Lee

Denies charge of S. Deane
vs Wm Lee -

(~~No 26~~)
(No 30 Dupre)

My Dear Brother

Frankfort in Germany 20 May 79.

I wrote you a long letter the 10th inst. that with the inclosures made 3 full sheets, which I hope you will receive; since that, (tho I have not rec.d a letter from you dated since last May, nor one from our Br. R. H. L. of a later date than June,) I have heard that my letters to you both of Oct. 15 Ult° have been rec.d & I hope the power of Att.y that went with them is safely rec.d also. I learn with very great concern that R. H. L. intended to resign his seat in Congress in Ap.l last, which for the wellfare & happyness of America I hope most cordially he has not done, unless it is to fill some important Office in our own particular Country. I should suppose he will have consider'd, that the present is as critical & dangerous a time for America as she has yet experienced, & therefore the wisest heads & most honest hearts will all be wanted to save her from great & impending Evils.

'Tis true that some late Public Proceedings, would be sufficient to disgust a Man of fair & honorable principles in common times, but in the present moment of Peril, all private feelings should give way to the Salus Republicæ. Besides, by a Resignation the wicked ones w.d gain a Triumph, & in short there are a thousand strong reasons against it. You can't say that my practice & preaching are different, for besides the loss of upwards of £6000 Sterg of my property, I have given up an honorable & respectable Office for Life in the first City in the Universe which no American [illegible] had the Honor of filling before me, & in fact sacrificed my own & whole family's Peace by entering into the Public Service. For really the [illegible] happyness we enjoyed before has been a Stranger in my Family for two Years past. We Breathe indeed & that is all, the wandering & unsettled state we are in, makes our living expensive tho' it is considerably worse & more disagreeable than ever I experienced before, which makes things unpleasant at the moment & more so on reflection, as it is at the Public Expence. All this I bear w.th fortitude from the invincible zeal I have for Liberty, and from the Love of my Country whose cause I am serving & shall continue to serve to my latest Breath, in spite of all the D's, the C's, the F's, the B—ns &c, in the face of the univ

I wish only to know the resolution & plan of C. with respect to me, for in a state of uncertainty, it is impossible to conduct my affairs with any degree of Propriety, therefore I beg you will write me fully & particularly every thing that relates to myself, by several op^{ties}, for 'tis of little use to me each: is written to our B^{r}. at P[illegible]. I do not write to R. H. L. from the uncertainty of his being at C. but if he is with you there pray give my Love to him & show him this, & also let him know that his 4 pieces of Linen have been bo't ever since Xmass, tho' they are but just now sail'd for V—a in the Governor Livingston & address'd to the care of Ellis at G. Spring. I cannot complain of either of you for not writing to me because I am sure you both have been fully employ'd in our Country's service, but I must beg that one of you at least will drop me a Line by every op^{ty}, putting it under a blank cover address'd A Monsr. Monsr. Grand Banquier Paris. You will have so much intelligence from G. B. by the Chevalier de La Luzerne, that I shall only give you my clear & decided opinion that the War will continue another year, unless we or our Allies gain such decided advantages this Campaign as to bring our Enemies to their senses for they seem to be more & more envelop'd in folly & obstinacy & wickedness every day. The B. Ministry weak as they are seem to have got on the blind side of the Spanish Court, for it seems pretty clear that they will be duped this year as they were last year, at least so far as not to declare 'till 'tis too late to do any thing this campaign, which is the great object of the B. M. for wch purpose they flatter in the basest manner & promise or seem to promise a thousand things [illegible] of which they mean to perform. Our friends in Hol^{d}. gain ground every [illegible] the Eng^{h} party tho' the P. of O. is at its head. Sweden & Danemark hav[illegible] out fleets as well as Holland to protect their Commerce ag^{t} the British Piracy, & the Empress of Russia who was the only power that they boasted of as their firm Ally in Europe (you know they boast publicly & even in Parliam^{t}. of their Savage & barbarous Indian Allies in Amer^{ca}.) has lately declar'd to the British Court, that if any of its Ships of War or arm'd Vessels, shall presume to stop or arrest or even to visit & search any vessel under Russian Colors, she will take the Captains & crews of such British Vessels, & treat them as Pirates. This is a manly & decided declaration. The Peace between the Emperor & K. of Prussia is just sign'd, therefore I cannot say as yet with certainty what effect that event will have on our affairs in this quarter, but it is probable the King will look at the busineſs a little longer before he strikes, & I shall not be surprized if he waits to see the iſsue of this campaign. The Emperor cannot do much without his Mother, who at present thinks more of the other World than she does of this. Our best Love attend you, yr. Dear Bib & all our other connections. God Bleſs you all. Farewell. . W.L.

(The decyphering in this is for the most part conjectural (No 299)

Paris May 21st 1779

The $\overset{\text{Spanish}}{348, a, XXIV}$, $\overset{\text{court}}{108, a, IX}$ continues still so stockt up, that no judgement can be formed when they will $\overset{\text{d}}{117}$, a, XVIII. They have fifty $\overset{\text{ships}}{336}$, a, XXXIV-s of the $\overset{\text{line}}{228}$, a, VI ready; Their $\overset{\text{2-f}}{167}$, a, VII-s are in excellent order & nothing seems wanting but $\overset{\text{r - l}}{314}$, a, XXVIII.

The $\overset{\text{m}}{836}$, b, XVIII your Brigadier is to $\overset{\text{sail}}{315}$, b, XXXV, with 2000; $\overset{\text{french}}{170}$, a, XXIV, $\overset{\text{troops}}{384}$, b, XXVI-s. I do not like the plan. Our 63, a, XXIII has given me a nearer view of the manner in which things are conducted $\overset{\text{here ?}}{189}$, a, XXVI, & of their $\overset{\text{designs}}{131}$, a, XI, & I am convinced it is not safe to let them come too near us, or introduce their $\overset{\text{t ?}}{884}$, b, XXVI-s into

$\overset{\text{o}}{265}$, a, XXX, $\overset{\text{c}}{107}$, b, XXX, or $\overset{\text{c}}{102}$, a XXXII on which I am by no means satisfyd they do not wish for a $\overset{\text{f}}{166}$, b, VII.

f
166, b, VII. We must not rely too much on their being
ruled t-u- d p
314, b, XXXVII-d by the 382, b, XXVIII, 130, b, XXXIII, 284, a, IX-s are
much at ease on that head

o a
Never will 265, a, XXX, 40, a, III-s go well, while
[Franklin?]
454, b, XIV is there. For God sake let some sensible
(sept)
& respectable person be 332, b, XXVIII instead, & put
an end to all their disgraceful & dangerous work, of
which he is & ever will be the Father. In my judge-
-ment none of those hitherto employd would be
proper. That would have the air of party & injure our cause.
But surely a new man of dignity & ability may be
meannesses
found, who will be far above those 238, b, XXX-es
r c r
which render the 312, b, XXII the 101, b, XXXVI of the 312, b,
b-r
XX-d. He must ruin the 80, b, I. In one word he is the
servant court country
333, b, XXI of their 108, a, IX, not of their 107, b, XXX. They have
him.

Our Enemies are distressed, but they

are determined. The late successes have augmented
their resources, but their expence is enormous. The
weakness with which things are conducted 189.a,
here   Franklin   Deane
XXVI & the wickedness which 454, 6, XIV, 115, 6, XXXVIII,
         Turnts
& their 218, 6, III. have been carrying on, gives them
hopes. They judge of the corruptibility of all by these
men; & still hope this will be a means of their
success.

I have reflected very much upon the propriety
                                                    old   Doctor
of presenting the pieces against the 260, 6, 1, 134.a, VI
& I think it will entirely depend upon the part
taken by 455, 6, XI, 454, a, V-x. If he speaks out, & does
not act the base & invidious part he has done 189.a,
here
XXVI, which I fear he will, they may be presented
with effect. There is but one person whom he does
not

R. Morris

not seem to envy, hate & speak ill of & that is 455, 2,
XXVII, if he therefore made a point of his speak-
ing out, I think he wou'd, & it must have great
weight. Notwithstanding his conduct has con-
base (?)
vinced me that of all men he is the most 59. a,
Izard ?
VIII & most insipid, yet, 196, a, XXVIII never quar-
relld with him & I hope 426, b, XXIX will not.
He is too contemptible for that. But be upon
(successor?)
your guard against him. The 364 b, XXIV of 455,
Gerard
a, XIV has often declared his opinion here of the
old doctor minister
260, b, 1, 134, a, VI-s unfitness to be 243, a, XVII,
here
189, a, XXVI. Perhaps he will do so with you. It
must have weight. Take the favorable moment
of making the attack. all success depends upon
that. Vis consili expers mole ruit sua. Both
the

May 21st 79

minister services
The new 243, a, XVII, & 330, b, XIII are of worth & deserve your cultivating. I received yours of the 11th feby by Capt Robinson. I enclose you a summary which if you approve be so good as to send to H Lee, with my love to him & his Lady, desir:ing only that if he makes it public he will not print the name of Mr Thos Digges, because it may fall into the Enemys hands & hurt him, he being in their power.

454, a, v-v at parting expreſsed himself perfectly satisfyd with my conduct & diſsatisfyd with the old man. But he will take the side his interest directs for his envy & malice seems equal to all. The Minis:ter & Secretary who come to replace M. Gerard have shewn great attention to Mr Izard & myself, & seem

to

have very just & honorable sentiments. The recalling the other & sending there is a proof that their Court does not mean to take advantage of the opening their faction gives them.

I should approve of your resolution of retiring from public business to the care of your private concerns & should follow your example were I not persuaded that the public never had more need of our vigilance & services than at present. There is nothing I am more firmly convinced of than that the ultimate object of the faction is to sell us back to the domination from which we have vindicated ourselves. And as it will be worse to be reduced than never to have revolted, it is more necessary to oppose their faction than it was to resist the

British

British Ministers. Deane is but a wretched instrument.

If you see no impropriety in it, be pleased to deliver the enclosed, after sealing it, to Mr. Paine. I am more obliged to him on the public than on my private account, but the latter is sufficient to demand my thanks.

The party here have spirited up that Mr. Petrie to refuse in a most impudent manner, to give any of those circumstances or explanation of his charge against our Brother. Upon which our Brother sent him a Challenge, which he says he will accept as soon as he is well enough. Here the matter rests.

It may be of use to Genl. Washington to be informed that Sir George Osborne, in his examination

before

the House of Commons, declard, that the Evening before the attack at Germantown, Genl. Howe informd him it would be early next morning & put him upon his guard. Genl. Washington will poſsibly find out by this who it was betrayd the secret to the Enemy. I enclose you the Letters that paſsd between the Genls. in America & the Secretaries of State in London, from which you will learn many interesting particulars.

Mr. J. Adams is now at l'Orient expecting to sail in the Alliance. If she should not go he will come with this. I am informd he speaks very openly of the conduct at Paſsy, of which he certainly has full knowledge. The American Gentlemen at Nantes had refused to sign an addreſs to Dr. Franklin on his being appointed Minister. They had been promised the Alliance as a

Convoy

Convoy if she could get manned. But when she was so, she was orderd to go to L'Orient under the command of Capt. Jones, in spight of every thing I could say in behalf of those Gentlemen, for the public supplies & those for the State of Virginia, together with a vast quantity of merchandize belonging to our Countrymen. Such is the spirit in which he conducts every thing. The pieces of Linnen went in the Genl. Washington & Mr. Ford will bring six pounds of Bark for you & Loudon. The Marquis de la Fayettes expedition is dropt. Adieu

(No 299) May 21st 1779
(~~No 137~~)

No 137

~~No. [illegible]~~

May 21. 1779
recd Oct 11th

Bordeaux 22 May 1779

Hon. A Lee Esqr

Sir

A Small Sloop arrived here last Night from the Eastern shore of Maryland she left Matompkin the 17 April they had no intelligence at that place of any movements all appeared quiet

I shall not be able to get Capt Robinson to sea before the 7 or 10th June he will go direct to Philadelphia. I am affraid the State of Virginia forms so many engagements she will find herself incumbred to discharge we do not learn they have any Vessels loading on their account Beaumarchais has a claim of some Millions for Goods delivered and many others in the like State the only method they could fall upon would be to send orders to Mr W. L to send them out Vessels for them to send back loaded with their Produce

I hope you receivd in due Course the packet I forwarded you the 8th Inst not having receivd a line from you since makes me note it

I am respectfully

Sir your very hble Servt

John Bondfield

Philadelphia May 22d 1779

Gentlemen

Notwithſtanding Congreſs have in Fact agreed to the Report you delivered in today, yet you can not but be sensible that it is left in the Power of an Accident to defeat both your and their Intentions, and prevent the beneficial and just Operation your Report was designed to have with Respect to us. — Feeling, very sensibly, the Difficulties under which we labor, we are anxious to have the Buſineſs completed, and our disagreeable Suspence removed: — and as some of the Gentlemen of the Committee will probably leave the City soon; — as the Intervention of other Buſineſs may prevent the Accompliſhment of this, unleſs immediately attended to; — and as we ourselves expect to be separated on Tuesday next; — we beg Leave to request that the Committee will, on Monday, give an Order upon the Poſt Master General, for the Disposal of the Money to be lodged in his Hands, agreeably to the Report above referred to. —

We are
Gentlemen
Your moſt obedient and very humble Servants

Eben: Hazard

James Bryson
for himself &
Richd. M. Stephens
Survrs. of the Southern District

P.S. Should it be inconvenient to call a Meeting expreſsly for this Purpose, perhaps it may suit as well should Col. Lee take the Draft of the Order with him to Congreſs, and get it signed by the Members of the Committee, as he may meet with them there.

(4)

(May 22d. 1779.)
Officers of the Post
to
Commees. of Congreſs

May 22d. 1779
Officers of the Post
to Committee of Congreſs

The Honorable
The Post Office Committee
of Congreſs

Not sent

To Carter Braxton Esqr.

Paris May 22d. 1779

Sir

A Letter, under your signature, dated D[illegible] 6th 1778 and addressed to Mr. John Ross in France, have been [illegible] public papers of N York, London, and Virginia.

Your not having intended that it should appear in print, will hardly atone for the indiscretion of committ= to Paper, sentiments so pernicious to the public. Did you mean to put it in the power of Mr. John Ross, to communicate this injurious picture of your Country to his Country men in Great Britain; that Scotch faction, who are the authors of all the Calamities resulting from a war, founded in tyranny and conducted with every possible cruelty? Was it a man of that nation, which had avowed the bitterest Enmity and rancour against the united States, to whom you chose to trust such dangerous information of the distresses and weakness of your Country? If these things were true, a wise man would have concealed them; if untrue, an honest man would not have mentioned them. Is it possible you could have expected that this mischeivous communication would sleep where it was sent, and not, some how or other, find its way to England, and invite the Enemy to persevere in a war, the Calamities of which you pretend to lament?

To suppose this, would be to justify your intention, very much at the expence of your understanding. It is then, that while brave and able men are exerting themselves in the field and in the Cabinet to secure the Sovereignty [illegible] and [illegible] of their Country, the poison of secret informations, communicated thro' invidious channels, threatens the destruction of the State. It is this, Sir, and not french alliances, or french Ministers that, if possible, would lay us prostrate at the feet of our Enemies. If your despair of our success were real, I should pity you. Such pusillanimity is contemptible; and will never reach a people who have distinguished themselves by a firmness and valour which have rendered them the admiration of all Europe.

Give me leave now to say one word on what you have been pleased to add concerning my Brothers & me. You did not want, you say, the proof of Mr. Deane's letter to satisfy you about us. Where was it you learnt that accusations and proof were the same? It is I presume the same accuracy of judgement, to which we owe the opinion you entertain of our Principles, which, you say you know to be base. Will you be so obliging as to state what those principles are, that the public may judge for themselves? Describe the artifices and Intrigues we have used for our own private emolument. Let the world know what place of profit we ever possessed, for what [illegible]*crative post* we were ever candidates. Do you think those who devote their time and their talents [illegible] service, in employments honorable indeed [illegible] unprofitable, deserve the return of calum[illegible]tude? What are your principles, that make [illegible] this return?

Had my Brothers given their votes in the Assembly of Virginia, to share in *money unduly kept in circulation* — had they exerted themselves to *prevent an enquiry* into *that corrupt and ruinous proceeding* — you would have a right to call their principles *base*. If you know such a *man*, be so good as to tell him, that when next he feels himself inclined to impeach principles directly opposite to his own; he should look within, repent, and be silent. Had my Brothers employed their time at Congress in *forming connections in Commerce*, with a man who had then much of the public money to play with, I should have *suspected* their principles. Had they been occupied ever since in making fortunes by this partnership, and then calumniated others who had devoted all their time to the public Service; I should have thought them actuated by *base principles*. Had they added to this a Correspondence with Scotsmen in Europe, & exposed to them the vulnerable parts of their Country; I should have deemed their *principles* [illegible] and their *conduct criminal*.

You are pleased to charge me particularly [illegible] communicated "*inflammatory intelligence from* [illegible] many falsities." I beg you will do yourself [illegible] name me one of those many falsities. If you do [illegible] it, and you certainly can not, the world will judge you deserve a harsher name than I shall mention. Your sagacity it seems discovered very soon, that it was unsafe to trust the secrets of the State with men of our character. The same sagacity directed you to confide them to Mr John Ross. Probably some of the same clan in Glasgow have been deemed worthy of similar confidence, some of those worthy gentlemen, who were driven back to Scotland as a punishment for holding principles so opposite to those you impute to us, & so congenial with your own.

It is pleasant enough to see how you and Mr Deane, tho' pursuing the same object, that of deceiving the People into a distrust of those men who prevent you from making your Country the Instrument of your vanity & avarice, contradict each other in your accusations. According to Mr Deane, I was so much attached to England, that they were obliged to drag me into the french treaty; and my Brother Richard Henry Lee persists in affirming, that we may make peace with England notwithstanding the treaty with France and hav

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26

Copy

Dear Sir, Philadelphia May 22. 1779

I have paid due attention to your favor of April the 21st. and I believe there would have been no difficulty in obtaining what is desired for Baron de Geismar had not the enemy created the difficulties that do exist. They absolutely refuse to admit partial exchanges and they have lately proposed such unfair ms for general exchange, that nothing can be done in ither of these ways ~~They~~ will not allow one of our Officers to come out on parole, if like permission be granted to one of theirs, as appeared in the case of Major de [illegible] the Regiment of Hesse Hanau. Upon consideration of his matter with your friend Mr. Peters, who is one of the Board of War, we conclude the way to put this matter into the best train will be for the Baron to apply to the British Commander in Chief for this parole exchange, nd write to Gen. Knephausen to support the request — hat these letters be sent here to the Board of War, and they will immediately forward them thro the Commissary of Prisoners expressing their willingness to gratify the Baron. An objection is raised here to gratifying this Officer without receiving something like an equivalent from the enemy as tending to encourage their obstinacy in refusing a general exchange on terms of fair equality, by which our captive Of

We have no news here but what comes from Virginia, All good men are waiting with ardent expectation to hear that our Countrymen have given these wicked Invaders cause to repent of their undertaking.

We have been told that Col^o. Hamilton of Detroit is a prisoner made so by the brave Col^o. Clarke — I wish it may be true, and I hope the [illegible] Prisoner will be well secured, because his enmity to us, his activity and influence among the Indians are equally and all very great. My respects to M^r. Wythe and my other friends.

I am dear Sir yours most sincerely

Richard Henry Lee

May 22 1779

The Minister of France having not yet been informed by Congress of their deliberations on the important Overtures which for more than three months have been the object of his repeated representations, he presumes that no resolutions relative thereto have yet been taken. A delay so long and so little natural in an affair so plain and in a conjuncture that required much celerity, and which so essentially interests the United States, hath inspired the Underwritten with apprehension, that doubts have arisen either concerning the bottom of this affair, or about the manner of proceeding, or concerning the disposition and views of the King. And as the instructions of the said Minister direct that he should in nothing dissemble with Congress concerning what may be of use to the United States he asks permission to place before them the resumption of objects the most essential which appear to him to deserve attention in the future course of deliberation. It is notorious that the direct and essential object of the Alliance subsisting between his most Christian Majesty and the United States is, *to maintain effectually the liberty, sovereignty & independence absolute and unlimited, of the said United States, as well in matters of government as of commerce* and by consequence the territorial rights inherent to the Sovereignty. It is the mark to which all the efforts and all the proceedings of the King do constantly aim. It is to accomplish that, and to procure for the people of America the enjoyment of this precious independence and the ceasing of those evils and those dangers under which an active and obstinate war makes them groan, that his Majesty has undertaken a difficult and expensive war against the English, without any views of personal interest, and without accepting those advantages which the United States appeared ready to grant him. He has already given the most shining proofs that his friendship does not confine itself to the simple observation of his engagements. He is in effect disposed to give the United States all the assistance compatible with his own affairs and with the general conjunctures, and he regards the interest of the United States as his own in all things that relate to the object of the Alliance and conformable to the invariable principles upon which the reciprocal connections with the United States are founded. It is a consequence of his attention to execute literally the Treaty of Alliance, that he has lost not a moment to inform Congress of Overtures relative to the projected pacification, and in exhorting them to take without delay, such part in this negotiation as the dignity and interest of the United States demanded. He has moreover reiterated his promise that he will not treat with the common enemy without establishing as a first and essential condition the assurance of independence

conformable

Conformable to the stipulations of the treaty of alliance. His Majesty has at the same time charged his Minister Plenipotentiary to ~~the~~ communicate with Congreſs on different considerations arising out of circumstances, and particularly to observe to them that the Alliance not being victorious cannot give law to the common enemy. The Underwritten has executed these orders as well viva voce as by writing. It is therefore evident that his Majesty desires nothing but the establishment of an honorable and solid peace conformable to the stipulations of the Treaty of Alliance. He discards all idea of conquest and of territorial acquisition for himself, to the end that he may accomplish with promptitude this salutary purpose of his engagements. He is disposed to continue the war with vigor if the common enemy rejects the pacific system which his Majesty has announced to the whole universe and which the United States have adopted by signing the Alliance. But on supposition of the perseverance of the Court of London ~~&~~ in the design of subjugating or conquering America prolonging the calamities of war, his Majesty will find himself free to concert with the United States such ulterior measures as may arise out of this new order of things and conformable to the respective interests of the Allies and of the common cause. It is thus that the King fulfils and proposes to fulfil the duties resulting from the 1st and 8th articles of the treaty of Alliance, in preſsing on one side the United States to participate in the negotiation which may conduce to the conclusion of a Truce and a Peace, in making *common cause with the said States* and in putting on the other side the two Allies in the way to *aſsist mutually with their good offices their counsels and their forces according to the exigence of conjunctures*, and finally in shewing his perseverance conformably to the 8th article in the resolution *not to lay down his arms until Independence should be formally or tacitly aſsured*, but this last stipulation limiting the engagements of his Majesty upon this object to the very time of this Aſsurance, if England subscribes immediately to this eſsential condition his most Christian Majesty

It results from all these observations first that the King is engaged to procure by the way of Arms to the United States *the aſsurance of their Independence*, and ~~which~~ that his Majesty is faithful to fulfil this obligation and ~~which~~ also to lend succours to which he is not obliged by the Treaty. 2dly That he has made no engagements but those expreſsed in the stipulations of this Treaty. 3dly That the United States have neither right or title to demand any other, and that if they mean to go to ulterior engagements, they can be only voluntary on his part and by uniting their *reciprocal counsels* conformably to the first article of the Treaty, and ~~this~~ as becomes *good & faithful allies*; in which case it is impoſsible to foresee the situation of affairs and the opinions of Europe, or to judge what measures may be fit for his Majesties adoption to secure the important point of of maintaining his reputation and that system of equity and moderation which he has made the fundamental principle of his reign. These considerations appear above all due ~~from~~ to an Ally ~~with~~ whom he has contracted gratuitous obligations without any reciprocal advantage 4thly By combining the declarations of the 11 & 12 articles we see that the success of the war can alone fix the fate of ~~the~~ Empires, it is found impossible until the completion of the Treaty of Alliance to determine the possessions which the United States may obtain at the peace, that in consequence the guarantee of France can on this subject be but conditional and eventual; and that he is not now bound by any particular guarantee relative to these same possessions whether real or pretended and that this obligation commences at the time when the possessions of the United States shall be fixed by the end of the war. 4thly Infine, it is indispensable to ~~attend~~ add to these considerations; that ~~altho~~ when there ~~be~~ is some doubt about the expression, the meaning and explication of a Treaty, the law of reason and of universal justice, as well as the rules of a good and faithful alliance decides that one of the Allies hath not the right to interpret arbitrarily and singly; which assumption would be at once offensive to the dignity and destructive of the confidence of the other Ally; that neither of the two can in effect arrogate a dictation in connections which ought to be equal & reciprocal; that it is only by an amicable explanation and by mutual concurr that doubts can be removed and the precise sense of treaties determined; and that this method will be yet more indispensable if it should happen that the pretensions of one of the parties are founded only on far fetched inductions, subject to discussion & contradiction, and tending to alter the essential and fundamental system of the alliance. The Minister Plenipotentiary of France has full confidence that the Congress of the United States knows so well the rules of proceeding and the regards which Sovereigns mutually owe each other, as to observe them in their conduct with his most Christian Majesty; but the important conjuncture, critical and pressing in which the affairs of the Alliance are at this moment imposes on the Underwritten Minister the sacred duty of contributing as much as he can to accelerate the resolutions of Congress to prevent all ill understanding and every subject of misconception, to preserve the most perfect harmony and uniformity of views & sentiments concerning the accomplishment of stipulations salutary for the Alliance, and deceptive of the attempts of the common enemy who found their plots and their principal hopes upon the divisions which they endeavour to foment. Finally one object of the present Memoire is solemnly to fix the faithful and amicable conduct

of

of the King in this conjuncture, his Majesty hoping that the knowledge of this conduct will confirm the government ~~with~~ and the people of America in the sentiments of confidence with which the proceedings of his Majesty have already inspired them. It is only by thus placing before the Congress the indubitable principles anounced above that the Minister Plenipotentiary of France thinks he can accomplish his duty to his Sovereign and to the Alliance, and to put his ~~real~~ zeal for the common cause of france and america out of all danger of reproach— If he is deceived in his conjectures about the immediate and apparent utility of his proceedings he prays the Congress to excuse him for consuming their pretious time, and he flatters himself that knowing his zeal and his attachment for the Alliance & for the United States, they will attribute his conduct to such sentiments.

At Philadelphia the 22d May 1779

signed Gerard

Gerard's Memorial
to
Congress
22d May 1779
French & English

Part
[illegible] the Congress
[illegible] Papers

Extract from a Memorial from the Minister of France to Congress 9th Feb. 1779 The King my master, on his part, is invariably determined not to seperate his interest from those of America and to support the cause of the United States as his own.— His Majesty while taking every step to hasten the happy period when America may peaceably enjoy the internal and external happiness which is the aim of the revolution and the extent of his Majesties wishes

2 & 8th Articles of the Treaty of Alliance

Motion of R. H. L. That the right of fishing on the Coasts & Banks of North America be reserved to the United States as fully as they enjoyed the same when subject to Great Britain, excepting always what shall have been excepted by the Treaty of Paris between France & the United States the whole to be explained by the Treaties of Utrecht and of Paris with G. Britain and of Paris with the United States of North America —

116 a II 72 a VII.

99 a XVII May 23. 1779

As I shall have occasion frequently to mention 251 b XXXII's in the course of 374 b XII 226 a XV remember that the 92 b XIII's in the 368 d XXXV of 251 b XXXII's are 257 a Xed 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. — Since my last the 270 b XXXV have pushed a 414 a XVII for 426 b XXXVI 305 b XXX but they have 156 a XXXIVed the 354 a XXXVI's being 133 b VIed. Nothing has been done since. But every thing will be attempted to 209 b X 426 b XXVIII regardless of 385 b XXI, 393 b IV, or 297 a XXXIV 179 a XVII tho the last is the pretext and forever 296 a VIed in some 249 a XXs — Tis remarkable that the uniform, fixt, invariable 420 b X's are for 426 b XXVIII. Those against 426 b XXVIII are generally well known in America — The latter are 236 a XXXIIIed in 373 a XXXIV 220 b XV. T. — The papers 1. 2. 3. 4 will 337 b I 426 b XXVIII the 182 a XXIX they 419 b XVII on. What part 455. b. 1 XIV has taken the papers 2. 3. 4 will 120 b VIII. I believe verily that 115 b XXXVIII is not more your 145 a XXIV than 455. b. 1. XIV. And the latter possibly more bitter and much more subtle. It would be well to search diligently if 455. b. 1. XIV is not connected in some 216 a VII with 115 b XXXVIII. Our cruel enemies have lately invaded Virginia with 2000 men and taking the advantage of the dispersed state of the people there, they have burned Portsmouth, & Suffolk, and every house they come to — Murders in cold blood and rapes without end mark their way — Every outrage and every ravage that would disgrace the worst Savages they have committed. The people are collecting and will be in force very soon to punish these Wretches — But according to custom, as soon as they see a force equal to their own collected, they will fly to their Ships, and by crossing a wide river with their Ships of war to cover them, begin their ravage in another part. This will 78 b XXI me 191 b XXVII to take care of my 157 a XXII — And 224 b XXIIing the 167 a XXVI and 115 b XXXVIII's affairs unfinished in 99 a XVII much 132 b XXVIII es your 170 b XV. It is very remarkable that those Men who from the beginning of this contest have been

the most decided friends to the Liberties of America
and the firmest opposers of British Tyranny, and who
in the hour of Trial will be found most true to the
Alliance, are the Men whom 455.b.1.XIV has shewn
the least desire to be 419aXXVIII 423aXXVI - Another
sort of Men have shared his 170bXIX and 157aXVIII - This
has been the policy of the British Court for 15 or 16 years past
Time will prove if tis a wise one in 419aXXVIII. The
162bXXII 122aXXIIed class of 240aXII are not 170bXVs
to the 216aVII's of Deane, Chaumont, Holker, Williams,
Wharton, Bancroft, Beaumarchais &c. &c. &c. &c. —
If Ludwell is not necessary for you, he is I suppose
quite fit now to commence the study of such part of the
law as may fit him for early practice, and therefore
it is wishd he may avail himself of coming over in the first
safest Ship - Either a frigate of ours, or in any Ship of
War of our Ally coming this way. He should come well provided
with Linnen & other Cloaths, with a few necessary Books.
If Mr. Wm Lee has no business for Thom he may come
over likewise - But this is left entirely to Mr. Wm Lee
on whose judgement and friendship his father depends.
Mr. Wm Lee and yourself were both written to very
fully and lately via Nantes - Furnish the former with
the contents of this and with the Writers best love.
It would do infinite good if this most wicked combination against you could be fully explored and exposed.
I am persuaded there are no worse enemies to America
and the friends of America than these people -
I am well informed that the 414aXVII about your
305bXXX gave great uneasiness to the 420bXs in this
State - They consider it as coming too near to 322bXXIIIing
one of themselves and their good & able friend —
Make an apology for my not writing to our 72a
VII. I am quite exhausted with long and close

attention to variety of business.

455.a.XXI·455.1.XXV. 225.a.V.

P. S. 25. Many of your friends are of opinion that it will be for your honor that you should be called here in order to bring 115b.XXXV111 to justice. Should this be the resolution, I entreat you to spare no pains in collecting the most authentic proofs, for I am very certain that there has been so much misconduct and 421bXX111 380bXII with the 297aXXXII·246bXXV that you will do honor to yourself and serve your Country by breaking up this bad man and his very bad connections. Unless you come in a strong Ship of War or otherwise powerfully convoyed – 78aXX111 96aXV111 the 377aV and manner of your 93aVI. You know the virulence of yr. enemies, notice may be 177aXVIen in order that the 145aXXXIV may place you to languish in a British jail.

Altho the plan for recal should not finally be carried, yet your friends are of opinion that the violence & wickedness of your enemies is such, that they think it will be wise in you, to take the first favorable opportunity to resign, or rather ask leave to do so — I before mentioned, and again repeat my earnest wish, for I think it indispensable, that when you come you bring every material for making the fairest and fullest settlement of the expenditure of such pub. money as has passed thro you, or been entrusted to your care – It will by no means be proper for one of us to endeavor to shelter ourselves, as some bad men do, under a thousand delusive pretexts for not settling accounts and demonstrating the rectitude of our conduct. If you come, I suppose, that as you cross the Sea, having the necessary materials, you may be digesting a complete state of all your transactions and your well supported ideas of 115bXXX111's culpability. I 334a11 259bXXX11 this 115bX to guard my 157aXX11 from the insults and cruelty of the enemy.

Capt. Nicholson says that Williams bot for Dean a prize Brigantine that he captured, and that she came out loaded with private property with our fleet in spring 1777 – Enquire about this the manner in which Williams disposed of all the prizes committed to his disposal –

24 May, 1779?

yesterday came a courrier sent by our ambassador in madrid who brought a letter to a noble man of that country now here, where in it is said that the ministry for foreign affairs are very busy.

I am the more apt to think that this was an insinuation relative to the declaration as two men of rank & authority have told me to day that at versailles they all expected it should take place very soon.

I am &c.

moonday the 24th at night

the best informed people Indeed
Des ministres Say that Spain is
ready to declare.

in the afternoon I will visit
the gun makers. have you any
further commands to give me
before I go.

friday morning

I receive Just now from Abbé Nolin
a List of Seeds trees &c. Which he Wishes
to Get from America. I fancy that the
properest place to deliver them to mr Lee
will be thursday next When I will have
the honor to dine with him at Chev. De
la Luzerne's house. If mr Lee chuses
rather to have them to morrow, he is
desired to let ~~count~~ mr Sanfield know it.

I called this morning on mr D'aussun
but could Get nothing from him

tuesday may the 25th

L'Orient May 26th 1779.

(No 300)

Dear Sir

I already repent that I miss'd the offe
of going to America in the General Washing
the little experience I had might have c
me I could never brook the insults to wh
a Marine Officer is exposed. Capt. Jones
I believe is a brave & experienced Officer, but
sea Officers in general contract ~~[illegible]~~ such an insu
=ing manner of behaviour that it is impossible for an
Gentlemen of Spirit to serve under them. I boas
myself to be a Virginian & it shall never be sa I le
any man insult me with impunity: I have ther
left the Poor Richard; by which I have put my
in the same situation & rather a worse than
when I came to France. inclosed is a letter fr
Mr. Schweighauser to whome I applyed for a
on my own acct. I must beg you will add to
favour's already confer'd on me by being answerable for

Sum of fifteen hundred Livers, which I can—assure shall be remitted to France as soon as I arrive in Virginia & the Favour gratefully acknowledged & I also hope you will recommend me to the Favour of the Marque L'Fayett, in whose suite I would wish to go to America, as by that means I shall have an opportunity of mortefying ~~Messrs Jones~~ the Honble John Paul Jones Esqr commander of all the American Ships in Europe, (a Stile he has lately adopted) & I shall strive to do Honour to your recommendation.

It is expected the fleet will sail in a week, but I make no doubt of hearing from you time enough to clear out, & I again offer to deliver with care any letter you may trust me with & I sincerely wish you may detect our secret enemies in all there practices; Mr Ford is still very unwell. be pleased to give my compliments to your Nephew & be assured I am with the utmost respect your

Much Obliged

& Very Humle Servt

Alexr Dick

L'Orient June 8th 1779

By a desire of not being thought whimsicall
I waited untell to Day that I might not be fau
be[illegible]ish, Mr. Chamont & Mr. Williams has
offered me so many priveledges that I was al
tempted to resume my Command; but as
Capt. Jones has not himself asked it as a
Favour I now resolve no other temtation bu
the neccessity of geting from that shall tem
me to go on board his Ship, they are not gene
=rous enough to pay my expences at this plac
I wish you may get me recommended to the
Marquis tho Jones is already a good deal
mortified by the respect paid me by th
French Officers.

Alexr: Dick
to
Arthur Lee
(26: May 1779.)

(No 300)

Dick

To
The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr
Hotel d'Espagne
Rue Guenegaud.
a Paris

10

Commodore Gillon presents his Compliments to Mr Lee
Shall have the Honor of attending him to Messrs —
Capt Joiner, Robeson, [illegible] & Spencer will also wait on Mr Lee
Sunday Evening

Extracts from Dr. Franklin's Letter to Congress

May 26th 1779 - Recd his Commissn. 11 Feby

Jones now has the command of a 60 guns Ship with some frigates all under american Commissions & Colors, fitted out at the Kings expence

He offerd the Alliance as Convoy to the trade at Nantes, but they would not wait for her being got ready.

Ministers willing to serve us except Mr. Necker - think the best way is to render their marine superior - the King has engaged under his hand for paying interest on 3 Miln. livres if borrowd in Holland - only 80,000 florins yet obtaind on that Loan. - Genl & Ld Howe Genls Cornwallis & Grey Col. Montresor Capt Hammond & others have formally given it as their opinion in Parliament, that the conquest of America is impracticable.

Oct. 17th 1779 - never medled with the quarrel has ordered 10,000 Suits of Clothing, shall have 15000 Stand of Arms, a good deal of Cloth for 8000 Suits more purchased by Mr. Ross goes by the Alliance May 31st. The Alliance to carry as much of the Cannon Clothing are furnished by Governmt. & he is in hopes She & the Ariel may take the Whole, with Ross's Cloth.

May 31st.

Fleury's Medal & others cost 2000lt each:

c

was a.

other by M.a

no acknowledgement of the Receipt of any
of the Goods shipt since he was in
France, except of one or two Cargoes
Capt. Jones now Commodore sent to Sea
this Summer w.th a little Squadron all under
american Colours & Congress Commissions

Oct. 20th. The whole of the Supplies can
hardly be furnished, but the Ministry
will do the best they can.

March 4th. Mr. Gerard will be here next
week. I may afterwards have
time to write by the Alliance - a mortal quarrel during the cruise between
Jones & Landais - sent for Landais
the Commodore Jones took command of
her in Landais absence - Landais has
never applied to him to be replaced in
her & he supposes never will, as
he is dissatisfyd with his Officers

of Deane & Lee, nor intends it — has still a very good opinion of Mr. Deane's zeal & activity in the service of his Country, also thought him a man of integrity.

Octr. 4th. 1779 Public credit not yet sufficiently established for private Loans, that in Holland not yet exceeded 80,000 florins Neufville & Co of Holland their attempts to impose. Mr. A Lee applyd for money tho he had 500 Guineas since the news of his being out of Commission — just learnt from M. de Monteiu that compleat Rigging for 2 36 gun frigates wch. the Commrs. sent for Congress to Cape Francois lies still in the hands of his Agent Carrabasse — sends Copies of two Invoices of the Cargo of the Therese, one of these was shipt by the Commrs. the other by M. de Beaumarchais —

(No. 301) Rue Ste Anne, Paris
May 28.. 1779

Sir

I am sorry that my Situation continues Such, as to render it impossible for me to travel at present. Dr. Macmahon & Monsieur Sabatier, Chirurgien Major des Invalides, who were with me this Morning, have forbid my using any Exercise, & represented the dangerous Consequence of my so doing. You, Sir, will oblige me much, if at your Leisure you would favour me with a Call, & tell me, if you agree in Opinion with those Gentlemen.

When I am able to travel, your Brother shall not experience a Moment's delay from

Sir

Yr most ob. Servt.
J. Petrie

Arthur Lee Esqr.

Sir   Lisle 26th May 1778

This day I received here yr. Lettr. of the 22d, by wch I find my journey has been in vain. You say you deny ~~you~~ having ever done me an injury, & that you have said nothing but what you have sufficient Vouchers in yr. possession to warrant & justify — What you may have said to others, I know not; but you say in your Letter to my Br. on the 9th of April last, that you told Mr Deane, I had communicated unreservedly to some person in London intelligence of ~~you~~ the signing the treaty between France & America the very day on which it was signed. Look at yr. own Letter. — Now, Sir, I am obliged again to tell you that this is not true, therefore if you have any Vouchers that can warrant & justify yr. having said so, it is incumbent on you to produce them. I demanded yr. authority for this assertion, by my Letter to you of the 4th inst. in terms wch upon the coolest recollection, I see no reason for changing; & I also desired you would name the person, to whom & the words in which this unreserved communication was made.

Such precision is absolutely necessary for in many instances even truth itself may wear the semblance of falsehood if it is not fully & fairly represented. To this Letter you reply by refusing to comply with any part of what I desired, & in language very unbecoming in you to use to me, & such as I will not submit to from any man — It may be a joke with you, but it is none to me to lay under the imputation of being a traitor to my Country: Therefore I must again insist on your immediately producing & furnishing me with a copy of those Vouchers, which you say you have to warrant & justify what you have said that the original author of the black aspersion of my character may be brought to justice.

This no condition or situation you may be in can warrant you in refusing to comply with. I am Sir yr Humbl Servt

signed — William Lee

To Mr. Samuel Petrie in Paris

S. Petrie to A. Lee
May 28th 1779
Copy of Wm Lee's Answer
Same day. —

(No 301)

A. Lee to Loudon Lee.
Paris May 28th. 1779
(from the book in Dept. of State)

"I have long been aware of the malicious
intentions of Franklin, Beaumarchais, and Chaumont,
to whom I am very certain you may
add M. Gerard". But I am very well persuaded
that although they may get me recalled,
yet they cannot disgrace me". "I know the
faction do not wish to see me at Phila. because
they are sensible my evidence must be
dangerous to them. Therefore as yet, I do not imagine
they will attempt anything that will
necessarily bring me over."

Arthur Lee's Opinion of Congress, and certain persons. (written to Loudon Lee)

(from book in Dept. of State)

He writes to a friend, May 28, 1779.— "I cannot express how much I am hurt and ashamed of the part Congress has acted in this business, (the affair of Deane & the foreign agents.) Our cause and national character depend much upon the respect and confidence in which ~~that~~ body is held. To suffer themselves to be insulted, belied, & calumniated to their faces by a criminal; to invite that criminal and calumniator to asperse the character of a servant of whose fidelity, assiduity & services they had volumes of proofs; to sacrifice one of the most able & meritorious supporters (Tom Paine) of our cause to the factious malice of a foreign minister (Gerard) who ought to have been complained of to his court the moment he meddled with party matters, and this upon such an unjust, forced, & tortured construction of his words, as would have disgraced a despicable attorney; — these are proceedings, that, in spite of every good man's wish, and every injured man's forbearance, must weigh them down to disgrace. From individuals I could expect anything, but that the body should be so infected is a serious & solid misfortune.

"There is, you may depend upon it, some deep design against our independence at bottom. Many of the faction are I know actuated by the desire of getting or retaining the public plunder. But besides this Duane, Jay, Morris, and others who were originally against our independence, have it certainly in view to bring us back to our former domination. Besides the invincible desire such men have to see their system triumphant, you know what offers of honors & emolument have been thrown out, as a reward for those, who will effect this so much desired end for the king & his ministers. The same men, who have been tempted by avarice to plunder the public, have avarice vanity, and ambition to tempt them to sell the public.

"I expected Wm. H. Drayton would take precisely the part he has. His character is too much of the Catalinarian cast for him to remain long among honorable men."

	s d
Paid for the London Pacquet 26 weeks @ 9d p week — —	19..6
Do. the Whitehall Evening — — 52 — 7½ Do. —	1..12..6
General Advertiser from 29 April 1778 — to the 25: March 1779 weeks ds 49..2 @ 18d p week	3..14..—
	£ 6..6..—

Recd May 18. 1779 of the Honble Arthur Lee Esqr. the Contents for the Use of Edward Bridgen Esqr.

Edm: Jenings

M. de Marbois

(No 302) May 30'-79

Sir,

I received yesterday, the Note by which you have done me the honor to invite me to dine with you next monday, and have sent to M. the Chevalier Luzerne that which you wrote him for the same purpose. Neither of us can enjoy that honor, because with the exception of tomorrow which we shall spend with Mr (Izard?) we cannot dispose of another single moment up to the time of our departure. — We will endeavour, Sir, however, to take an opportunity of conversing with you, and of receiving your commands for the Country for which we are about to depart.

I have the honor to be with distinguished consideration

Your very humble and very
Obedient Servant
De Marbois.

Versailles 30 May 1779.

(Nº 302)

M. De Marbois
30 May 1779.

Paris May the 30th 1779

Dear Sir

Depend upon it Spain will declare very soon. I cannot say that I have seen ~~[illegible]~~ the evidences of that resolution of ~~them~~ her, but I have it from such authorities as lead me to advise you to reflect on the proper measures to be taken before you go thither.

I am &c &c

(No 318) Paris May 31st 1779

Sir / I beg the favor of yr Excell.cy to lay my respects before Congreſs with a Repetition of my most earnest request to be recalled.

I should most willingly continue to sacrifice as I have hitherto done, my private interests to the public good. But I am satisfied that the dissentions raised concerning me will be continued by a continuance of my Commiſsion; and will be of more injury to the public than I can be of Service. And as the public good was the sole motive of my accepting the Commiſsion, the same reason now induces me to desire, more earnestly to resign it.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest Respect
your Excellency's most obed.t &
most humble Servant
Arthur Lee

His Excellency
the President of Congreſs

(31. May 1779)
Correspondence with
the Secret Committee
+
with Congress.

(No 303) signed A. Lee
(~~No. 149~~)

Dr. Lees assignation.

~~No. 57~~

No. 149

(No 307)   Paris June 1st 1779

Having seen in the Boston Gazette of Jany the 4th 1779 No 1271 a Letter addressed to the free & virtuous citizens of America, signed S. Deane, wherein is the following paragraph — "a Gentleman told me "(S Deane) that his Correspondent in England had "seen a Letter from the Hble Arthur Lee Esqr dated the "very day, on which the treaty was signed, though it "was not finished until near nine o'Clock at "Night in which was nearly these words — This day "the new Partnership was signed & sealed & the new "House will begin to do business immediately. if "the old House means to have any thing to do fur:"ther & means honestly, they must make their "proposals immediately" & it having been suggested that the said Letter was addressed to me, I hereby declare that I did not receive any Letter of the

(~~[illegible]~~) Mr. Jenings on the Intelligence
sent to America.
(No 307)

supposed date either from the Hble Arthur Lee Esqr.
or the Hble Wm Lee Esqr. by whom it is now said
the above Letter, so dated, was written, relative
to the french alliance, or treaty of, or any other
public matters

(Signed) Edmd: Jenings

1775

No 106

The above examined with the original is certified to be a
true Copy of the same by William Bowsh M.D.
of Virginia

Mr Jenings's
on the intel-
ligence sent to
London

Franklin
concerning the disputes between Deane, Lee and Izard.

Franklin to James Lovell.

Passy, June 2d, 1779.—"As I do not find by any of yours, that a long letter of mine to you of July last had come to hand, I send you herewith a copy of it (though now a little stale) as it serves to show my continued good opinion of a gentleman, (Deane) who by the papers you have sent me seems to be hardly used. I have never meddled with the dispute between him and Mr Lee, but the suspicion of having a goodwill to him has drawn upon me a great deal of ill-will from his antagonist. The Congress have wisely enjoined the ministers in Europe to agree with one another. I had always resolved to have no quarrel, and have therefore made it a constant rule to answer no angry, affronting, or abusive letters, of which I have received many and long ones from Mr Lee and Mr Izard, who I understand, & see indeed by the papers, have been writing liberally, or rather illiberally, against me, to prevent, as one of them says here, any impression that my writing against them might occasion to their prejudice. But I have never before mentioned them in any of my letters".

D^r. Sir

[illegible] you for your friendly attention,
& am sorry that I was not in when you
call'd to day — am but just got here &
send in answer your note [illegible] —,
Capt. Joyner accompanied me this
forenoon, on a Visit to Monsr. De
La Luzerne, when he fav^d. us with an
Invitation to dine with him to Morrow,
which we chearfully accepted of, therefore
presume he does not expect any further reply.
Hope to have y^e. pleasure of meeting you
there to Morrow, & am with Truth.

D^r. Sir Your most Obed^t Servt

Wensday 10 oClock A. Gillon

Let^r B. N. 5. p. 348

To his Excellency Count Florida Blanca
Prime Minister of Spain.

I have the honor of enclosing to your Excellency a Memorial which the opportunities I have had of knowing the temper & circumstances of G. Britain make me presume to submit to your consideration.

The earnest desire I have of rendering some service to Spain, & the common interest that must subsist in the success of the war, should it happen, are the motives I hope will be the apology for what I offer.

I have the honor &c

Paris
June 6th 1779.

A son Excellence M. le Comte d'Aranda

M. Lee a l'honneur de presenter ses respects a Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne, et de le prier de vouloir bien faire passer la Lettre ci-jointe a sa Cour.

a Paris ce 7e Juin 1779

Letr B. N. 6 p. 1.

Memorial to his Excellency Count Florida Blanca   Paris June 27th 1779

The English having taken possession of Savannah in Georgia are extending themselves in that State so as to form a connection with & establish an influence over the indian Nations that border on all that Country. They design also to possess themselves of Port-royal in S. Carolina, & if possible of Charles town.

These acquisitions, if they are suffer'd, with their contiguous possessions, will give them such a command upon that Coast & in the Gulf; as well as such means of exciting the Savages, & seconding their enterprises against the neighboring territories of Spain, as may be difficult to resist, if they are not prevented.

What renders it impracticable for the Americans to repel the Enemy, is their superiority at Sea, which, at the

same time that it supports their posts
on the land & enables them to make diversions
in various quarters, so as to keep up a
general alarm & prevent our force from
being united in any one point. With this
view they have very lately invaded the
State of Virginia, in the Bay of Chesapeake
to withold the aid which that State would
send to S. Carolina & Georgia.

In this situation, it is in his Ma-
jesty's power, to give very effectual as-
sistance to the invaded States; & prevent
the Enemy from making such dange-
rous establishments & such an augmen-
tation of their power. The naval force
of the English in Georgia & S. Carolina
will consist of ~~the~~ a fifty gun ship, the
Experiment lately sail'd, & three frigates. In
the Bay of Chesapeake there are a sixty four
& a forty four gun Ship with some armd
tenders. A small Squadron therefore
of three or four large Ships & a few frigates
sent

Dear Sir, Copy of a letter of
J. Adams to A. Lee L'Orient June 9th 1779

Your fav. of June 2 & 5 are now before me: that of March 29 I have answered, if I ever received it, for I have answered every one I received from you, but not having my papers at hand, cannot be particular. I thank you for the Ms. and the pamphlet—

I am happy to hear from you and from all others, so agreable a character of the Chevalier de la Luzerne, & Mon. De Marbois, the last of whom I have had the pleasure to see. I wish it were in my power to do more for Mr Ford and to take him with me, but the frigate will be so crowded, I fear it will be impossible. The declarations of the Northern Powers against England to stop their Merchant Vessels, and arming to support their rights are important events. The displacing of Mr Paine is a disagreable & alarming one.

It is with no small astonishment that I learn by yr letter of the fifth, that by advices from America since your last to me, your enemies are determined to impeach your attachment to our Country & her cause. Your request that I would give my opinion on that subject, from the knowledge I have had of your conduct, while we acted in commission together, can meet with no objection from me.

But I hope, I need not inform you, that my opinion on this point, is no secret at Versailles, Paris, Nants, or Elsewhere. Inclosed is a copy of a letter I did myself the honour to write to the Count De Vergennes, some time ago, which for any thing I know, communicated to all the Court— But the answer shews, that it as received. I had my reasons, then, for keeping it to myself, which xist no more. I would transcribe the whole correspondence, if it were in my power, but I have not time, and it is sufficient to say hat it was conducted by his Excellency, with the most obliging politeness. It is my duty now to furnish you, with a copy, least any acciden should befall me, which is by no means improbable. I thought then and am confirmed in that opinion, more & more, that it was my duty to communicate my sentiments at Court, upon that very extraordinary occasion; and from regard to my own reputation I am glad you have given me an opportunity of furnishing you with Evidence, that I did this part of my duty ~~with~~ so far forth. The letter was written, sent to Versailles and received by his Excellency before the arrival of the Marquis de la Fayette his aid de Camp or Dr ——, that is before the news reached Passy, of the new Arrangement.

But least that letter should not be sufficient, I shall enclose another certificate, not without an heartfelt grief and indignation, that Malice should have been so daring and barbarous, as to make either such a letter or such a Certificate from me, either necessary or even pardonable. Your hint, that I must correct some things that are amiss, extorts from me an involuntary sigh. I shall be in a situation critical and difficult without example. My own character at stake from various quarters, and without any thing to support me, but Truth and Innocence, and you need not be informed, these are not always sufficient—I have little expectation of doing good; God grant, I may do no harm—I shall not designedly. But I suppose Congress ~~means~~ intend to examine me as a witness, and I must tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so far as I know it—If the task should end here, I shall not be much embarrassed, but if they proceed to demand of me, opinions and judgements of men & things, as there is reason to expect they will, altho I hope, they will not, what will be the consequences

Upon the whole truth must be my shield and if the shafts of interested malice continue thro this they shall pierce ~~[illegible]~~ me. I have the hon[our] with [illegible] [illegible] and &c

Paris June 10th 1779
(No 304)

Dear Sir

Ere you receive this I shall be gone or obliged to remain untill I hear from Virginia the fleet it is expected will sail on Sunday next, the Ambassador is not yet arrived; & I cou wish mighth not untill I can contrive some way of settling my affairs, if I was at my own disposal I should stay with pleasure; my duty to my country requires my immediate return, & remaining here mighth be a slur I could never wipe away. I am exceeding sorry it is not in your power to assist me. I would undergo any hardships rather than go with Capt. Jones. I have too much of our country's Spirit to put up with any Insult, & whenever a Gentleman affronts me I make him give me satisffaction or by retorting force him to call upon me. Captn Jones declares he had no intention to affront me & that he should look upon it as an Honour if I would go with him, I am ~~very glad~~ he gave me a Specimen of his behaviour before I was too far engaged with him, I would be very foolish if I should put it in his power to use me ill a second time: I can't tell how long I may remain here, but if the Ambaſsador should not sail before I arrange my affairs, I shall be much obliged to you for a letter of recommendation to him, as by going in his suite I should have a sure paſsage to America. I am

Dear Sir

Your Most Obedient
& Very Hum.le Serv.t
Alex.r Dick

L'ORIENT
28

The Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esq.r

Hôtel d'Espaign

Rue Grenegaud

à Paris.

(No 304) Alexr. Dick
to
A. Lee
(June 10th 1779.)

I have the Honor by this Opportunity to acquaint you that I arrived in the 2d. Ulto. & had the Pleasure of seeing your Brother well in Philadelphia the middle of last Month, to whom, with several other Members of Congress I had the Honor to be introduced by Mr. Laurens, the late worthy President —

I beg Leave to refer your Excellency for all News to the public papers wch I have by Capn. Thompson the Honor of forwarding to Mr. Adams, & to return you my Thanks for all Civilities received while in France —

= /.

If my small Abilities should be thought serviceable to my Country in any vacant Office with you — shall be obliged to you for your Friendship herein, & consider myself honored with your Notice

I am with due Respect,

Your most Obedient &
very humble Servant

Boston 10th June 1779 Jon Loring Austin

His Excellency Arthur Lee Esq

Sir July 12th 1779

I have only to congratulate your Excellency upon the Repulse given the British Troops the 14 May by Genl Moultrie at Charlestown South Carolina & to refer you to the Newspapers for Particulars of this glorious Event being with all Respect

Sir
Your most Obedient &
very humble Servant
Jon Loring Austin

(No 308)

No. 4

1779

My dear Sir Philadelphia June 13th 1779

I send you the inclosd Extracts from our Friends Letter
according to your Request. No Pains are spared to effect the Recall
of Mr Arthur Lee. If any are in hopes by this to put an End to
the Usefulness of an able, faithful and indefatigably industrious
Friend to our Country, I believe they will be disappointed. I
still flatter my self they will never obtain a Majority; but
should they succeed thus far, it is my Opinion that no Man
in America would afford greater Aid in the publick Councils
than he. The Day before yesterday another Attempt was
made. The Motion which was offerd by Mr B. before you left
us, was brot on, that Mr Dean be directed not to depart from
these States till further order, and that Mr A Lee repair to Ame-
-rica to make good his Charges against him. The Question was
divided, and failing by an equal Division of the States in
the first part, the other was damned by a very great
Majority of Voices on a previous Question. When some
one of the States may be better represented*, it may be brot
on again and again — Mr Lovel will write to you more largely.
Being in great Haste preparing to set off on my Journey to
Boston this day. I can only add that I am very affectionately
your Friend
SA

Hon Col Lee

*Che Just-D

(~~No: 4~~)
(No 305)

(Dean)

Chief Justice Drayton

St jean d'angely 13 june 1779 156

Dear sir

I had intended writing to you a very long letter but as I have just now receiv'd an order for to Repair immediately to Versailles and from thence join the Army under the gnl Count de Vaux, I shall only scribble these few lines to you – I want Remembering myself to your friendship, and to those sentiments I have been honor'd with from you, which I so much deserve by my gratitude and affection – I had the pleasure of seeing your son only a few minutes as he has allready been

The honorable Richard Henry Lee esq.

out of Paris— but I know enough of him as to be very desirous of making myself his friend. Mr Arthur Lee I have oftener seen, but not so often as I could wish because he himself has been very busy, and so I was in the first moments of my arrival— But I hope at my return put myself with him on the footing of a greater correspondance, and stricter intimacy, than our mutual circumstances have hitherto permitted.

There are no interesting news for the present But I hope you will hear from the Ch.r de la Luzerne whom I recommend to you— further questions which I hope will be made by that army I am going to join, I shall give you a faithful account of. Be so kind as to present my respects to all the acquaintances of mine to whom I [illegible] the persons write, and particularly to Mr. Sam. [illegible].

Farewell, My dear Sir, with the greatest Regard & Esteem

Your most obedient humble Servant

La Fayette
June 13th 1779

[illegible] No 309

Dear Sir, Chantilly June 13. 1779

I think Fiddle has played a fine tune in Dunlaps paper of May the 29th — If you wish to know what Fiddle whether a Cremona, a Steyner, or a Base viol, or the Head of a Base viol ask our friend Ellery and he will explain the mystery. Some people rather than not be remarkable would be so for being supremely rediculous — So, that rather than it should not be known that Fiddle sometimes plays in Congress a first Fiddle, the yeays & nays must b published in Dunlaps paper of the 29th of May, t all the world may be set to laughing — at whom — Not o Mr. Laurens — But, a jocis ad seria — Have you rescued the fishery from the paws that are used to pull the Chesnuts out of the fire — It is mighty convenient, when a person does not choose to burn his own fingers, to have ready an officious ~~willin~~ hand, willing to encounter the embers. I think that as the house near the Capitol is less than the Capitol, that the Lesser ought not to dictate to the Larger, and more especially as the "alliance not being victorious cannot give law to the common enemy" — Mr. Ellerys sagacity can help to explain this last enigma if you should find any difficulty in the thing yourself

Letter to Genl. Mifflin
Concerning "Fiddle" -
Alias. Merriwether Smith
(No 309)
June 15th 1779

Letter about
alias Merriwether Smith
Fiddle
to
Genl Mifflin

Copy confidential

June 13th 1779
Philadelphia

Dear Sir

I will not omit this Oppy. of sendg. a few Lines to you, though my first Intentn. were only to put under Cover the Gazettes, and the Journals of Congreſs. From those you will learn how Questions relative to you have been agitated

May 3 For your Recall 4 to 4 & 4 divid.

June 9 (8) Ordr. of the day called for, vizt. Repd. of the Comtee of 13. — A motion made by Mr. Burke 2dd by Mr. Laurens that the Considn. of the Rept. be postpd. till order be taken on Mr. Deane's Letter of May 22d. and a Deciſion of the Resolution moved thereon by a Member from Nth Car. 2dd by a Membr. from Sth Car. Question by yeas & nays demandd. by Burke 5 a 4 n 3 divd.

motion That Silas Deane Esqr. be ordered not to depart the United States without the special permiſsion Leave of Congreſs and that Arthur Lee Esqr. be directed to repair forthwith to America in order the better to enable Congreſs to enquire into the Truth of the several Allegations & Suggestions made by the sd. Ar. Lee in his Correspondence with Congreſs against the said Silas Deane.

Previous Question called by Gerry 2dd by S. Adams.
a Division of the main Question demanded.
Previous Question on the 1st Part yeas & Nays by Mr. Laurens 5 a 5 n 1 divid.
yeas & nays by Mr. Holton on the 1st Part 4 a 4 n 3 d.
Previous Question on the 2d. Pt. yeas & nays by Ellery 11 ays.

= The Term recalled having been used with regard to Wm. Lee & Rph Izard, with an Idea strenuously supported by some of bringing them to America though others who were affirmative meant only vacating Commiſsions, a 2d. Resolve paſsed That it is the Sense of Congreſs that Mr. Wm. Lee & Mr. R Izard need not repair to America. = I give them no official Notice now, nor shall I without the special order of Congreſs; because, I am again left alone of the

Com.tee of for: Aff.rs Y.r Brother R H having resigned as I hear, and gone home; and further because something Definite ought to be decided in regard to Compensation for Services of the Commissioners. An Attempt has several Times been made lately to chuse a new Com.tee instead of filling up the old one. This you will perceive to be singularly decent towards the one who has steadily attended. Nay it is said that such a Com.tee is useless. I am sure I find an immence Deal that ought to be done and a great Burthen in what has been done by a Member of Congress without Secretary or Clerk, little as you & the other Gentlemen abroad may have been benefitted by my Labors. Quires of my Writing have been sunk in the Sea, most of it near these Capes.

I expect further Attempts to get rid of you. It was a Fear of that and a strong Desire to scrutinize Mr. D that made Mr. Laurens I imagine give into the late Motion. But I think you will rise above the Malice of the Faction which you have long known, or, if you find yr. Usefulness destroyed by their Acts you will readily tell us so, and desire to make way for some other Person. — I have by me large Packets left by your Broth.r with Copies of Proceedings affecting you, but I wish not — venture them round about, as a Frigate must soon go directly from hence, or at least a Packet boat. I tell Mr. J Adams more on that Head. I suspect much Roguery in the Stoppage of y.r Letters; how else is it that we have not a line from any of you?

Mr. S Adams goes home Tomorrow for good and all, as he says. This is intended Via Cadiz a Copy Via Martinique

your Friend & humble Servant

J L

Vid Journals
Apr. 6. 15. 20. 21. 22. 26. 28. 30
May 3. 22. 25. 27.
June 9.

Honorable Arthur Lee Esq.
Commissioner &c
Madrid

Receivd this from
Mr Adams the 11th
Feb.y 1780, i.e with
the wax fingerd
not opend. Mr
Adams had it
from Dr Franklin

No 310 Philadelphia June 15th. 1779.

Dear Sir

I yesterday received your very agreeable Favor of the 6th instant, and am much gratified by your Confidence & Approbation; for, be aſsured my Dear Sir, there are, in public Life, few greater Consolations than to stand well with those, whose unvarying Conduct, through the whole Course of such a Contest as ours, bespeak and prove them the great and the Good. The Panegyric of such Characters will always be Food to the generous Mind, and the Defence and Support of them the spontaneous Effort of every patriotic Spirit.

We have done no great Things since you left us, however as Determinations have been made respecting some great Characters on the other Side the Water, I will give you the best Account of them from my Memory as I have it not in my Power at present to apply to the Journals.

On the Questions "shall Mr. Izard be recalled" "shall Mr. William Lee be recalled" they both paſsed in the Affirmative by a small Majority. Each of these Questions, as soon as determined, was succeeded by the Proposition; Resolved that it is the Sense of Congreſs, that Mr. Izard, Mr. William Lee, be not required to repair to America unleſs convenient &c or words to that particular Effect; and the said Proposition respecting them both paſsed also in the affirmative: so that those Gentlemen are left entirely at their own Option.

I cannot omit to mention, that we had many curious & learned Debates respecting the Meaning and Definition of the Word "recall," and

(No 319) Nathl. Scudder, June 15th 1779.

(Deane & A Lee)

We have not ~~yet~~ been able ~~as yet~~ to ascertain the Evidence of Doctr D—— as to Communication of paying the Society in London, ~~as~~ he ~~is~~ being gone on the western Expedition, nor can I discover who the Person is in this City to whom he alluded; however I hope in a little Time through Mr Sergeant or Mr McKean to obtain satisfactory Information, when I do, I shall make the best Use of it here, & immediately communicate it to you.

I congratulate you on your Family's Escape from the Depredations of the Enemy, tho ~~[illegible]~~ the Ravages they have committed in your State; I wish Providence had suffered a less severe Jogg to have awakened you—

I also congratulate you on the glorious Successes of our Friends in South Carolina, & I hope Georgia too, tho we are not yet freed from the pains of Suspense by any regular Express from that Quarter— I however am sanguine enough to hope for an entire Burgoyneage alias Prevoage of the British Army in that Department.

The Enemy are gone up the North River in Force, and have possessed themselves of, & are fortifying Kings Ferry.

The Boston & Confederacy yesterday sent up a fine prize Ship of 24 Guns, with Stores & Provisions on Board for a long Cruise.

Want of Time & Paper conspire to prevent my adding any thing further at this Time but that all Friends are well, and that I am with high Esteem & great Sincerity your Friend and most Obedient humble Servt.

Nath. Scudder

Honble Richd Henry Lee Esqr

P.S. I hope we shall in a few Days finish our Loans in a happy Issue.

~~No 100~~

and I at one Time apprehended the Result might have produced the Necessity of a Correction in most of our modern Dictionaries, however in Time it being wisely judged, that, although we might determine, that by recalling a Man we meant that he should continue where he was, and should even proceed so far as to publish our Battalia of Yeas and Nays upon the new Definition, yet ~~in~~ our Constituents, who seem to have abated of their implicite Confidence in us, might not fully accord thereto, it was thought best to proceed in the Manner I have before related.

Next came on an excentric Attack upon Mr. Arthur Lee in Manner and Form following; Mr. Burke, seconded by Mr. — say Smith, tho I am not quite certain, laid in the following Proposition viz.t "Resolved, that Mr. Silas Dean be directed not to "depart the united States without special Permission of Congress "and that Mr. Arthur Lee be ordered forthwith to repair to "America &c: After much Debate, when the Question was about to be put, a Division was called for, and the previous Question moved on each Part of it ~ On the first Part the previous Question was lost by a Division, and by a peculiar ~~Turn of~~ Turn of Providence the main Question shared the same Fate, and after all his Enemies Manoeuvres, when the previous Question came to be put on that Part which respected Mr. Lee it obtained almost unanimously, and to their utter Mortification he remained in Statu quo. Whether they will venture at any future Time to renew the Attack I know not, if they do I hope

we

we shall place this Business on better Ground than a bare Division, as I think Rhode Island, New Jersey and Delaware will pretty generally hereafter stand fair — Mr. Merchant is arrived here, I expect Mr. Houston from Jersey in a Day or two — Mr. McKean is in Congress & Mr. Van Dyck hourly looked for — Contra — Doctr. Witherspoon is gone on a Mission to Vermont and our Friend Mr. Adams sets off for Boston this morning.

I ought to add respecting Burkes Proposition, that on the main Question ~~respecting~~ for Detention of Mr. Dean in America The Yeas were New York, Virginia, North & South Carolina, The Nays, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Pennsylvania — Rhode Island, New Jersey & Maryland divided, Delaware, Mr. Dickinson not present — the Reason you may conjecture —

all the Difference from the above State, if applied to the previous Question, was that Mr. Fell voted [illegible] the previous Question, and Mr. Henry against it — whereas on the main Question Mr. Fell voted ay, and Mr. Henry nay, which divided both the States to the utter Confusion of &c: &c: &c: after it had been audibly declared, "all hollow", "all hollow" —

Thus are the crafty taken in their own Devices. And I suppose Mr. Henry will undergo a severe Gauntlet for so sacrilegiously subverting their political Babel.

We have not as yet appointed any new Minister, nor have we any foreign News of Importance — I seriously apprehend some new Folgery has arisen to thwart our Advices.

from the House of Penet D'acosta Freres &Co. - that the arms
of an agreem.t with me thro' my Br. were refused because
-nish'd at the time agreed.

This complaint on the face of it gives it's own answ. since they com
they did not comply with their agreem.t - Why they have thus offended
and good faith they must answer.

36 That house sign'd an agreem.t the 1st of July 1778 to send over for the
of Virg.a 9000 fusils & a variety of other articles in the following words — "E
" plus prompte expedition les Sieurs Penet, D'Acosta, Freres, &Co. s'engag
" de les expedier, au plus tard, a la fin de Septembre au d'effault de
" ce que n'aura pas été executé en sera regardé comme non aven
" et les susdits conditions de nul effet."

Not an article was shipp'd agreeable to this engagem.t some months af
they said the fusils were ready for shipping. The Governor of Virg.a hav.g
directed them to be insur'd & that from the delay which they had m
having then become impracticable from the general change in circ
-stances, it was propos'd to them to enter into a new engagem.t to
goods on their own risk & be paid in proportion if they got safe.
breach of Agreem.t made it necessary to add a penalty on non comp
out which being express'd, it seems according to the laws of this coun
be recover'd. This agreement they refus'd to enter into,
farther notice was taken of them.

I have had too much experience on other occasions of the con
house to waste a moments time in making any farther p
relative to them; because I am sure it would be only time
-haps Mr. Johnson who is on the Spot, may be more for
the State of Maryland get those arms which they say
for the State of Virg.a

As this Company had engaged to ship these article
enumerate them in what he apply for to this Go

your application, that if they are obtain'd I may
Endeavoring to procure freight for them.

for me sent to Mr. Grand's will be duly forwarded. I have the
to be with the highest consideration. Sir your most ob.t & m.o Hble Ser.t

(Copy) sign'd. W. Lee.

Excellency
Benj.a Franklin, Esq.r Passy.

Wm Lee Esq
Minister to the Courts of Vienna & Be
United States of America. Frankfort

Sir / Passy June 17th 1779

I made the application you desired to the Mini
the State of Virginia & it is still under consi
ration. But it being known, that the Contract
for the same things, with D'Acosta & Co. has b
executed by them & the greatest part already s
over on their Account, as you refused
them, I know not how I can well co
pliance with your particular request
however lately repeated the demand for su
Supply to be sent to the Congress, who ma
nish Virginia with it, if still wante
pose of it otherwise where the gen
shall most require it, & I hope I shall
cused, tho' the great affairs now on the
here, may occasion some present

I have the honor to be, with
Sir, Your most Obedt
Humble Servt
Signed B. Fra

37

Wm. Lee to B. Franklin
(date torn off— 1779
Copy of B. Franklin's Reply
June 17th 1779.

L'Orient June 17th 1779.

(No 306)

Dear Sir

In my last I acquainted you that it was impossible for me to go on board Captn. Jones's Ship again; & should certainly have been left by the fleet had not Mr. Livingston (who was taken so ill that he could not go to America by this opportunity,) engaged to see my little debts paid before he leaves this, I therefore beg & request you will do Honour to the little Bill I have been under the necessity of Drawing on you, as the consequences will be as disagreeable to him as they were to me, without his interferance, & be assured I shall gratefully acknowledge your kindness; I am Dear Sir Your &c.

Alexr. Dick

Alexr- Dick

Alexr Dick
to
Arthur Lee
(17th June 1779.)

(No 306)

To
The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

D

Dear Sir Williamsburgh June 17. 1779.

I received your letter & kind congratulations for which I return you my thanks. in a virtuous government, & more especially in times like these, public offices are, what they should be, burthens to those appointed to them, which it would be wrong to decline, tho' foreseen to bring with them intense labor & great private loss. I am also still to thank you for a former favor inclosing a song & receipt.

We have little new here. Colo Clarke's expedition against St. Vincent's, you know of. his prisoners are arrived at Chesterfield, & three of them brought to this place to be severely dealt with. the inclosed paper will explain that matter. we have 300 men under Colo Bowman in the Shawanee country, of whom we hope to receive good account. the destruction of the villages of the seceding Cherokees at Chuckamogga, & taking their goods &c. has brought them to sue for peace. but the happiest stroke was the burning 20,000 bushels of corn collected there for the use of the expeditions which were to have been adopted at the great council Govr. Hamilton had called at the mouth of the Tanissee as mentioned in the within paper.

It is a cruel thought that when we feel ourselves standing on the firmest ground in every respect, ~~that~~ the cursed arts of our secret enemies combining with other causes, should effect, by depreciating our money what the open arms of a powerful enemy could not. what is to be done? taxation is become of no account; for it is foreseen that notwithstanding it's increased amount there will still be a greater deficiency than ever. I own I see no assured hope but in peace or a plentiful loan of hard money.

I shall be [illegible] by your letters when convenient to you to write. I never was a punctual correspondent to any person, as I must own to my shame. perhaps my present office will put it more out of my power. however as it may sometimes furnish me with matter which may induce me to hope my letters may be worth sending, I may venture to say you shall hear from me whenever I can get over the twofold difficulty of many letters of absolute necessity to write, and an innate aversion to that kind of business. I am Dr. Sir

Your friend & servt.

Th: Jeffers

164

Richard Henry Lee esq.

Westmoreland,

Jno. Shippens
money sent Mr.
Corbin 2000 dollars

Govenr. Jefferson Letter
To
The Honble. R.H. Lee Esqr.

6733
3 6733
2039
2019

2019.1
3300.1
5408.

121/2
281/2

Count Loyauté
– Indiana Land Co
– Land Office Bill
– Ohio Co.
– Sundry Bills.
– Taxes paid in produce.
– Memorial of Pinet & Co
– Ballendine.
–

N

50
150

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.
Chantilly
Westmoreland

favoured by
Monsr. Loyauté

important

G. Mason

G Mason to R H Lee
Jan 19. 1779
(No 311)

[illegible] (No 311)

Dear Sir. Wmsburg June 19th 1779.

Colo. Layata, coming to pay You a Visit at Chantilly, gives me an Opportunity of informing You not of the News, but of the Dearth of News at this place. All our pleasing accounts from Charles Town, I fear, are vanished into nothing, at least nothing that can be depended on. [The great Business of the Legislature goes on heavily, the members inattentive, tired, & restless to get away:] in this Situation of things, You well know what sort of Investigation the most important Subjects are likely to have, & that Reason & sound Argument will have little Avail. — The Indiana Company's Title, after two or three Days Debate, & every Effort, within & without Doors, to support it, is rejected; and an Act passed, in the most explicit Terms, firmly asserting the Common=wealth's exclusive Right of Pre-emption from the Indian's, within our own Territory, declaring that all Deeds or Cessions heretofore made to the Crown shall inure to the Use & Benefit of the Commonwealth,

Commonwealth, & that all Deeds which have been or shall be made by the Indians, for the separate use or benefit of any Person or persons whatsoever, are void & of no Effect. —

The Land Office Bill, upon very proper Principles, and a Bill for setling the ~~of~~ Titles of Claimers under the former Government, have passed the House of Delegates, & are now before the Senate; what alterations they may undergo I know not; but some to the latter Bill, made Yesterday in the Committee by the Senate, at the Instance of their Speaker, are very absurd & unjust; they are to be reported to-morrow, & as the old Bruiser will then have his mouth shut in the Chair, perhaps they may be set right. My Charter Rights, I believe, will be established, & my Locations preserved to me, upon resurveying the same Lands, that is, upon putting a considerable Sum of Money out of my Pocket into the County Surveyors; for the State will not gain a Copper by it: our Friend B—n, & some others did every thing they

could

(3.)

coud to invalidate them — The Ohio Company were not permitted a special Investigation of their Claim, obliged to submit to the ~~Descrip-~~ Description in ~~of~~ a general Bill, & thus in Fact denied a Hearing; & yet every attempt that Art or Cunning coud suggest, made to introduce particular words to exclude them. I have spared no Trouble, nor omitted any thing in my Power to procure them Justice; ~~those~~ the only Chance now left, is to get their Claim referred to the Court of Appeals, & to preserve to them the Right of their Location, by Resurveying the same Lands, if their Claim shall be established upon a Hearing before the said Court; & in this I have still Hopes of succeeding; two Days more will determine it. [The principal Bills still before ~~the~~ our House are upon the Subjects of the Militia, Invasion or Insurrection, raising Troops for the imediate Defence of the Commonwealth selling the real & personal Estates of British Subjects & lodging the proceeds in the public Treasury subject to the further orders of the General Assembly, naturalization, ascertaining the Damage done by the

Enemie

1779

Enemies on private property that Compensation may in due time be demanded or levyed by exclusive Duties on the British Trade with us at any time hereafter, on the mode of proving Book Debts & ~~restraining~~ discouraging extensive Credits, & on the more effectual manner of supplying our Troops with the Articles necessary for their comfortable Accommodation & preventing Embezlement; most of these Bills now stand committed, whether the House will have patience to go thro' them all is uncertain; I fear not; many members declaring that they will stay no longer than next Saturday at all Events, & some that they will go away sooner: We should not have had a House now, but for a little piece of General ship I got our Friend Mr Page to undertake, procuring an Order that the Clerk should grant no Certificate to any Member for his wages, until the Assembly should have adjourned; unless upon Leave of Absence: some of the Fellows threatned, and kick'd & strugled, but can't loosen the Knot. We are endeavouring to digest a Scheme for laying a Tax in specific Commodities; which I think will have more Effect, in preventing the further Depreciation of our Money than every thing

thing we have done, or can do besides.

We have had Mr. Penet & Compy's Memorial several Days before a ~~com~~ select Committee, the Members of which seem well inclined to encourage so important an Undertaking; if this can properly be said of Men who are too indolent to attend to any thing; the Committee have met, or rather failed to meet, at my Lodgings, every Morning & Evening for this Fortnight; Ballendine has got Possession of the Key to the Navigation of James River, & is acting exactly the part of the Dog in the Manger. I am very uneasy about it, & fearful nothing decisive will be done, & the Gentlemen left in Doubt, & Disgust. —

I have got pretty well over my late Fit of the Gout; but remain in a very indifferent State of Health, to which Vexation has not

(6.)

G. Mason to R. H. Lee.
June 19th 1779

6
Letters

a little contributed. —

I had almost forgot to inform You of our new Election of Members to Congress; it is indeed a a disagreeable Subject; for in my Opinion (except our late Governor, who I hardly think will serve, & Gabriel Jones) we never had so bad a one: I inclose You a List of them; & I think You will hardly blame me for taking Care in time to keep out of such Company:

I beg to be kindly remembered to our Friend Parker; and am, with my Compliments to Your Lady & Family, Dear Sir

Yr. affecte. Friend & Servt.
G Mason

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

Bordeaux 22 June 1779

Honble Arthur Lee Esq

Sir

The Pilot Boat William Captain Howard belonging to Governor Johnson & Co of Maryland sailed yesterday by her I sent the Letters I had by me of yours excepting the two Packets for Capt Robinson who will sail on Saturday

By Letters yesterday from Bilbow they advise the arrival of an American Frigate of 28 Guns but mention neither the Name nor place from whence she sailed only that she took four prizes two with Provisions that she sent for America two with Salt she destroyd. many Prisoners on board

The Union of the French & Spanish Fleets took place the 13 Instant at Corunna with great Ceremony they write the 9th from Cadiz the Fleet only waited a

Wind

from Madrid they write the Fleet saild the 11th
Captain Jones in the Poor Richard was off this Harbour
two days past having Convoyd some small Veſsels
from Lorient he has with him two Frigates the
three Ships full of Men it may be expected he will
soon make himself known

I hear no tidings of Mr Ford he will be too late to
go in the General Mercer unleſs he arrive this Week

I should be glad you would give some Note
or Acknowledgement for the freight due. I have no
direct proof of my claim on you except the Bills of
Loading which refer to our verbal Agreement should
you be sent on any embaſsy lodge with me wherewith
to obtain payment when any thing may arrive that
enables you to discharge the Debt

I am respectfully

Sir

Your very hble Servant
John Bondfield

Philadelphia 22d June 1779.

Dear Sir.

Since my last of the 8th Inst. I am become debtor for your favors of the 6th & 13th. I am mortified by my inability to make proper returns by the present Mail — but circumstances render it impracticable, I shall seek for a private hand, or perhaps a public Messenger in a day or two may offer, by whom I may pay my respects & be almost as early with you as this will be.

We have not yet gaind an hairs breadth up the Hill of appreciation, nor shall we be able to roll that Stone without the immediate interposition of those for whom we have been long labouring in vain. I shall take the liberty of enlarging on this head in my next.

I believe as you do, referring to an intended Publication, you may remember I intimated the apprehension while you were there & told you whence it sprang — As to the hearing & open Door I believe it would be a proper means had we the proper Men — but alas! one may almost now say with Elijah, & Lord I alone of all thy Prophets am left. If the conduct of the Man had been clear he would have demonstrated his purity long since — his publications cannot make a clean thing come forth of of an unclean — Remember his own Criterion for the Character of a Public Minister — but there's the Reverse to my process, Col.o Knaublauch & two bran new forigners both recommended to me by particular Friends. Dunlap's Paper will accompany this to which I beg leave to refer & to conclude by repeating that I remain Dear Sir

With very great Esteem & affection
Your obedient & most humble
Servant Henry Laurens

concerning Silas Deane

The Honorable
Rich.d H. Lee Esquire
Virginia

H. Laurens

To

The Honble R. H. Lee Esqr.

Letters to R. H. Lee

from public Characters

of distinction

See [illegible] Royal society
Franklin
&
Bishop of Warburton
Lord Buchan
to
Dr. Arthur Lee
in the bundle

(No 312) Philadelphia Novr 22 79

Dear Sir

This day I am favored with yours of 13th Inst in which I hoped to find a conformation of our very good News from the Southward — I am pleased with the effectual measures taken by your State to raise so much by Taxation, it shows a Spirit worthy of imitation, youl see by the inclosed Papers how the reformation plan begun in this City before you left us is spreading through this & several other States I hope it will produce great good — I wish I could give a good prospect of some valuable conclusion on our finances, but so long as the power of evading perplexing & delaying the most patriotic propositions is allowed to a certain few, we shall do nothing timely that is fit & proper to be done, we have spent two finance days already without passing one resolution to purpose — & for this reason only, (if I am not too suspicious that certain Words containing or that may be construed to contain; what may answer the designs of a particular party to cannot be carried;   I find your absence does not entirely free you from a Squib now & then   Such as, if that Gentleman was or had been as well known in Virginia as I know him he would not have been continued a Delagate so long

by the inclosed resolutions you'l see how very little has been done, no Stop put to the Commissions of Quarter Masters & Commissary &c than which nothing has or possibly can occasion the depreciation of our Money more rapidly only think of a two penny Jack who never in his life was capable by any business he had been engaged in, of making a Shilling more than maintained his family & that but in a very so so manner shall now be making 40 or 50,000 ꝑ annum & that by lowering the value of our Money & raising the prices of every article he purchases a truth acknowledged by all & yet the mischief suffered to go on & encrease, as though some were afraid to Stop it for least they themselves may be injured in their connexions —   W Paca has moved several times to have a report respecting J Mitchel considered, which he had delivered into Congreſs long ago & when at laſt it was agreed to be taken up in order to determine upon it Mr Secretary turned over all the papers in the box & could not find the report & so went upon other buſineſs —

The only apology I shall make for filling up my paper with Notices of small things is that I have none great & important — But be aſsured upon the first hint you give me that such trifles are tiresome, I will deſiſt until I have more intereſting Matters to communicate in the interim believe me to be with proper Salutations to your Lady & Family — Yours Sincerely

Wm Shippen

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

Dr Wm Shippen

Shippen

No. 422

(~~No 422~~)

(No 312)

[illegible]

Sir

I have in due time received
which Your Lordship was so kind as t
the 7th & 25th June last, in both of them
upon the Critical Circumstances in w
the affairs of England, and upon the Sister.
Lordship Judge, the Powers at war with that Crown
ought to pursue, at the same time pointing out various
Subjects relative to the present situacion of the United
Provinces in America.

I ought to assure your Lordship that I have
readed with pleasure and attachment the Wise & prudent
reflexions Contain'd in your Lordships Cited Letters.
that I shall do with them the required use.

I embrace this opportunity to offer You
my best Services, & pray God for the preservatio
Your Lordship's life many Years.

To his Excellency Count Florida Blanca. Paris June 25th 1779
Your Excellency will permit me to lay before you a state of the late proc
of the English in the southern parts of the U. S. of America, which in their co
es may be as injurious to his catholic Majesty's possessions in that quarte
those of the United States.

Memorial, Copy

The English having taken possession of Savannah in
themselves in that State so as to form a connection with &
over the indian Nations that border on all that
to possess themselves of Port-royal in S. Carolina & of
These acquisitions, with their contiguous possessions will
and upon that coast & in the gulf as well as such
Savages & seconding their enterprises aga
tories of Spain as may be difficult to resist.
the People of the U. S. to repel the Enemy, is their
time that it supports their posts, enables them to ma
quarters, so as to keep up a general alarm & prevent
ted in any one point. With this view, they have very
of Virginia by the Bay of Chesapeake, to withold the
would send to S. Carolina & Georgia.

In this situation, it is in his Majesty's power to give very effe
sistance to the invaded States & prevent the Enemy from making such d
ous establishments & such an augmentation of their power. The naval
the Enemy in Georgia & S. Carolina will consist of a 50 gun Ship, (the
ately sail'd) & three frigates. In the Bay of Chesapeake there are a 64
hip with some arm'd Tenders. A small Squadron, therefore of th
our large Ships & a few frigates sent from the Havannah would
oy the Enemy's Ships in Georgia S. Carolina & Chesapeake bay; & deliver
eir troops into the hands of the ~~[illegible]~~ Americans.

The state of the Enemy's fleets in Europe & the W. Indies will not
ermit them at present to augment their force on the coast of America. The
uadron actually saild under Admiral Arburthnot to N. York, consists of four
s of the line & one frigate — namely the Robust 74. the Russel 74. the Europe 64.
ance, 64. & the Guadaloupe 28. As this Squadron must support the
their main Army & protect Hallifax, Rhode-Island & N. York
obable they will detach any additional force from thence to the
d, so that their Armaments there, if not withdrawn must necess
e a sacrifice to a spanish Squadron.

Excell'y Count Florida Blanca. Sir/ Paris Dec. 16th 1779
will have the goodness to permit my recalling to y'r consideration
already had the honor of stating to you, relative to the plan of the common
ablish themselves in Georgia & S. Carolina, in order to carry on more of
war against the possessions of Spain in America & against the United States
ost undoubted intelligence that they are more & more determind on pursuing
lan. The good intentions of Count D'Estaign to drive them from Georgia having un-
fortunately faild, & the departure of the french fleet having left them again a decided
uperiority on our Coast, must give them fresh encouragement to prosecute their en
erprize & will render the assistance of his Catholic Majesty's Squadron at the Ha
vannah absolutely necessary to prevent its succeeding. Suffer me therefore to en-
treat most earnestly your Excellency's attention to this, if other more near &
mportant objects of the war should have hitherto diverted it.

Privt

Bordeaux 26 June 1779

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir

Capt John Green on his Passage from Philadelphia was taken by a privateer and sent into Falmouth from whence he arrived here the 23 Instant he left Philadelphia 2 May had many Packets all which he destroyd. he informs me Mr Carmichael is coming over in a frigate that may be dayly expected & has hinted a prospect of a change at Pl. he left Mr R H L well at Phia. his Buisness in France is on Acct of R Morris & others. says the Parties in the State House runs high. the American Army was encampt in the Jerseys. The British Army in want of all Nessessaries at New York & Rhode Island the Inhabitants at New York in fear of being abandond the want of Shipping is the only cause that has prevented the evacuation — Great want of European Goods Exchange at 10 for 1. Mr Gerard out of health. Don Joan greatly Caressd. The paper Operations I told you at Paris executing for Acct of Ray de Chaumont & others has been effected to a great extent. Holker has Negotiated for considerable

sums

by which they are become Creditors to the State on cruel Conditions paying them 18 & 24 pr Cent Interest on the European Capital. I have the Honor to be

respectfully

Sir

Your very Obt Servant

John Barnfield

Le Roy en son Conseil sans s'arreter
a l'appel interjetté par le Sr. Izard du jugement
du Conseil des prises du 23. 7bre 1778, dont
il l'a debouté, a ordonné, et ordonne, que
le jugement sera executé selon sa forme,
et teneur, et l'a condamné aux depens, &c.
enjoint &c. fait au Conseil d'Etat du Roy
le 29 Juin 1779.

Mr Ventadors's respectfull compliments
to Count Sarsfield. He is very sorry
not being able to send now to his Lordship the
copy of the Declaration delivered by the
Marquis d'Almodovar to the English
Secretary of State. He hopes to get it
soon and to have the pleasure of sending
it to the Count

Dr The United States of America in

[illegible]		Sterling
April 1	To Balance due per Account settled and furnished this day	£19,323 8 10½
July 1	To Interest due thereon from 1 April to this date three Months at 5 p Ct	241 10 10½
		£ 19564.19.9

Paris 1st July

Errors Exc

signed John

N:B: Postages, with sundry charges of Negociations, &c. also Store Rent &ca. Chargable on the Merchandize Lodged on Island Normontier, are to be debited in the next account with the United States by J. R.—

e Account Current with John Ross Cr

1779

		Liv. Tournois	Sterling
May 1st	By Remittances received in bills on Paris from Mess. [illegible] & sons to their sale of the cargo of Stores at [illegible]	35.000 " "	
July 1	By Interest due thereon from 1st May to this date being two months at 5 p Ct p annum	291 13 4	
		35291 13 4	
	Deduct off ½ p Ct Bankers Commission on £35000 bills	175 " "	
		£ 35110 13 4 Exch: 30½	1487 11 7
	By Balance due this 1st day of July 1779 charged to the debit of the United States on New Account		18077 8 2
			£ 19564 19 9

y 1779

cepted

Ross

This Certifies to whom it may concern that the Course of Exchange from Paris on London, stood with little or no variation from the first of April last untill the first day of July at 29 1/16 & and that the Balance of £ 18.077. 8.2 Sterling stated by the preceeding Settlement at the said Exchange of 29 1/16 amount to £447,853:3:2 Tournois. In testimony whereof I subscribe this at Paris the 8. Sept. 1779.

(signed) Grand

By desire of his Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esquire Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America at the Court of Versailles. we the subscribers have carefully examined the within Accot. of Mr John Ross against the said States, by comparing the several Debits made therein with the Original Invoices from Merchants at Hamburgh &c (of whom it appears, he purchased the Cargoes of Merchandize that he has charged in his said Account) and with the Original accounts of Disbursements for Ships – their outfits, and other advances, and have compared the respective Credits given by the said Mr Ross with the Original Accounts Sales & Accounts Currents; And upon the whole, we do hereby certify that the within balance of Eighteen thousand & seventy seven pounds, Eight shillings and two pence Sterling appears to us to have been owing on the first day of July 1779 from the said United States to the said Mr John Ross – As Witness our Hands at Passy this tenth day of July 1779.

Duplicate

(signed) Saml: Wharton
Edwd: Bancroft.

I the underwritten do hereby Certify to whom it may concern that Messrs Wharton and Bancroft, Merchants, Citizens of the United States of America, at present in France have at my request exam: with care the Accounts of Mr Ross with the said States, and I knowing them to be Men of Integrity, skilled in such Affairs and therefore being perfectly satisfied with the Report they have made as above do recommend it to the Committee of Commerce to make immediate Provision for payment of the balance which appears due to him on the first of July 1779. And in case of my receiving funds from them for that purpose I will discharge the same

in France

in compliance with an Order of Congreſs dated 11 Aug.t 1778. Given at Paſsy near Paris this 8th day of Aug.t 1779.

(Signed) B Franklin { Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States at the Court of Fran

Compared with the Original in the Office of the Board of Treasury.

Wm. Duer Secy.

The United States
of America
with John Roſs
Ball.ce £10077.8.2

July 1.st 1779. Duplicate.

(Copy)

Extract of a Letter from
Mr. Vaughan } July 3. 1779

The inclosed Papers concern a certain minority-Person's family. Perhaps Mr A. Lee, who was at School with him, will undertake to enquire in whoſe hands the Property is at preſent? who receives the Profits? whether the Bulk of the Land is in any, and in what Cultivation? whether well managed? and what Meaſures ought to be taken on the Subject.

Beaumarchais.

Arthur Lee writes to Mr Pringle July 4, 1779, stating that he had conversed and corresponded much with Beaumarchais about his claim, and adds,

"I absolutely do not know whether he is right or wrong, and while it is doubtful, one would not impeach his character".

Passy July 5th 1779

Sir

I received the honor of yours dated the 29th past. The zeal you show for the relief of Carolina is very laudable, & I wish it was in my power to second it by complying with your propositions. But the little Squadron which you suppose to be in my disposition, is not as you seem to imagine fitted out at the expence of the United States; nor have I any authority to direct its operations. It was from the beginning destin'd by the concern'd for a particular purpose. I have only upon a request that I coud not refuse, lent the Alliance to it, hopeing the enterprize may prove more advantageous to the common cause than her cruise coud be alone. I suppose too that they are sail'd before this time. Your other scheme for raising a sum of 1,800,000 livres by subscription throughout France part of it to be advanced to the State of S. Carolina on an interest of 7 pr Ct. &ca being mixt with a commercial plan, is so far out of my way, & what I cannot well judge of. But in the present circumstances I shoud think it not likely to succeed. However as I am charged to procure a loan for the United States at a lower interest, I can have no hand in encouraging this particular loan, as it interferes with the other. And I cannot but observe that the Agents from our different States running all over Europe begging to borrow money at high interest, has given such an Idea of our Poverty

&

distress, as has exceedingly hurt the general credit,
& made the Loan for the United States almost impracti
:cable. With great esteem I have the honor to be

Sir your most Obedt. & most Hum: Servt.

(Signed) B: Franklin —

To Comodore
Gillon at Nantes

I do hereby certify that the above is a true copy taken
at Paris this 10th day October 1779

by me John Joyner

Letter from Dr. Franklin
To Commodore Gillon
respecting the Bon Homme
Richard &c. —

July 5. 1779.
he has no authority
to direct the opera-
tions of the little
Squadron under
P. J. Jones.

were published under the signature of Philalethes they have omitted these essential words—"Ce n'est pas une affaire de commerce que nous traitons, mais de la politique la plus etendue". This would ~~completely~~ directly defeated the conclusion they have imposed upon the public, "that it was an affair of commerce". Those of M. de Beaumarchais, of which I shall send copies as he has given them to me, will also defeat their other conclusion, that Mr Deane procured these supplies, because it will appear that everything was settled concerning them, and the sending of them commenced before his arrival in Europe". (Book in Dept. of State)

[The copies of letters here mentioned are those, which passed between Beaumarchais & Lee after the former returned from London to Paris & before Mr Deane's arrival, respecting the 200000 £ Sterling, proposed by ~~Marchais~~ Beaumarchais to be sent to America.— From the French extract, which appears to be from a letter of B. to Lee, it seems the business was meant to be political & not mercantile.— It is here intimated, ~~that~~ some of the supplies had been sent before Deane's arrival. I have not seen any intimation of this anywhere else, & doubt its accuracy.] None sent till 6 months after.

A. Lee to F. L. Lee.
Paris July 5th 1779

Beaumarchais.

"The enclosed authenticated copy of my letters will show you, ~~that~~ those which

In writing to R. H. Lee, July 5th he says,

"Beaumarchais's letters to me defeat the conclusion, that Deane procured the supplies, be- because it will appear that everything was settled concerning them, and the sending of them commenced, before his arrival in Europe. — There is a key to all that ~~was~~ is said and insisted on about returns, and that is that it was to serve as a cover to the transaction, should it ever be discovered. Thus I stated originally to the Committee, so it was stated to me at first, and so I always understood it. Notwithstanding this, if M. Beaumarchais can prove, or has proved, that he was obliged to borrow ~~money~~ and furnish money himself for the purchase of these things, undoubtedly he must be paid"

(N°307)

July 7. —79

The inclosed letters you will do with what is right. I think they shou'd be deliver'd seal'd. You will of course know the time. If M^{r}. T. Dig—es sh^{d}. be with you soon enough I sh^{d} wish him to come as soon as any man in the World & I think he w^{d}. not refuse it. M^{r}. Pollard I never saw but have written to him, that you may deliver it if necessary. I have been unlucky for two persons went from hence not more than 12 hours — before your letter was rec^{d}. either of whom w^{d}. have been very — proper attendants & I think w^{d}. have stayed. As to yourself you must judge of the propriety of coming, as well as the practicability, for something may occur to prevent you. I do not see the necessity of many being on the Spot; but sh^{d}. I be unfortunate it will be kind in you to give some relief to those who may be left here & who do not know any thing of this. It will be in some measure necessary for you to take care of your own affairs, & also of some material papers.

Original sent to Mr Petrie by Servant
Antoine the 8th in the morng

Sir / Frankfort Feby 7th 1779 A. Lee

I take ye 1st moment in my power to answer yr Letr of the 30th ult. – The first satisfaction that I think myself entitled to demand of you is, that you furnish me with an authentic Copy & the Writers name, of the Letter you say you received from London – stating "that the intelligence of the signing the Treaty with France, had been transmitted there, the very night on which it was signed, expressed in terms which could not have been misunderstood, & which intelligence from a concurrence of circumstances appeared to have been communicated by me", – & that you make an apology for saying to Mr Deane what the Letter, as you state it, did not authorize you to say, viz – "that I had communicated that intelligence unreservedly &ca"

If you do not do this I shall most assuredly expect, that you will meet me, as you have promised. I have had one journey to Lisle on this business, wch gave me the opportunity of learnd that the final settlement between us there or in its neighbourhood wd be equally improper, perhaps more so than at Paris; in this Country no possible inconvenience can arise to the fortunate person, therefore I fix on the City of Spire, wch is on the borders of France for the place of meeting. You will find it marked, & the route to it in the Chart that is bound with the Book of the french Posts. Fix yr own time, only give me 4 or 5 days after the receit of yr Letr wch sometimes takes 7 days in comg to me, & I shall certainly meet you.

I am Sir Yr. H.S. A. Lee

Mr Samuel Petrie, Paris –

Sir/ Frankfort, July 7th. 1779

The high opinion with wch our mutual freind Mr. Stockton has impressed me, of yr. honorable sentiments & goodness induce me to hope that you will not refuse to confer a very singular favor on me, tho I have not the honor or pleasure of a personal acquaintance with you

It is a serious business, tho it cant be attended with any disagreable consequences to you, or I shoud not request the favor of your attendance. The Gentleman who delivers this will inform you of the particulars & in expectation of yr. kind compliance I have the

— Pollard Esqr. honor to be &c W. Lee

Paris

y Serv

(No 307)

Wm Lee to A. Lee
July 7th 1779
with Copy of his to S. Petrie of July 7th 79
also Copy of his — Pollard — same date

The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr
&c &c &c
Hotel D'Espagne Rue Guenegaud
Paris

1177

make

7 July 79

Dear Sir,

I got the inclosed for you of Mr. Temple, who set off some days ago for Spaa. I could not learn the purpose of his voyage to Europe, but from some things I have heard, I believe he ~~is dispatched~~ has some commiſsion on public affairs – Nothing material has occur'd since my last sent you under cover to Mr Grand, which direction I shall continue until I hear from you to the contrary. I have receivd your favour inclosing the letter of Mr. Adams to Count Vergennes with the answer, and shall fulfill your request about them. All the American veſsels now here expect to sail in 8 or 10 days – Mr. Stocks goes in one of them – Others are daily expected. I have not yet taken my paſsage – I write in a great hurry to be in time for this post which is just ready to set off, having almost miſs'd it as I did the two last thro' inadvertence. My best Compliments to Mr. & Mrs Izard – I beg leave to remind you to favour me with the communication of any news &c that you hear of – I am Dr Sir

Yrs sincerely

J. Pringle

Amsterdam 7 July 1779

Bilbao 7th July 1779

Dear Sir

Your much esteem'd 9th Ult° came duly to hand & most heartily congratulate you on the scene having already taken place. Hope it will bring about an honourable peace to the three Allied Powers. By a vessell just arriv'd from Coruna we are inform'd that the Spanish fleet could not sail till the 2d Inst on which however they joyn'd with that of France. By yesterday's post from Madrid an order came from his My to admitt & assist all american ships of war which was accordingly comunicated to those that are in the river thro' our hands. Hope soon that what is to follow between the States & this Kingdom may be regulated to mutual satisfaction & wish heartly to see the sure consequence thereof, in which case I sincerely repeatt what have often told you. I shall with pleasure render your friend Mr Digges all manner of assistance & my Brothers will gladly joyn with me

to the purpose but he has not yet appeard
however be assurd that whenever he does
he will meet with all the regard due to your
recomendation. Your favour 25th Ulto to my
house is come to hand & depend entirely on
your discharging the bill as soon as possible.
Our people are certainly good seamen & will
stand the fire, but the little encouragement
there is of privateering with success will prevent
many of them. I shall this week dispatch
away the General Starkes Capt. Cous of Salem
finely refitted & carries 28 Guns & 140 good
men which hope will disstroys the enemy's
trade as much as it lays in his way.

I shall be glad to hear frequently from
you especialy if any news ocurr both from
America & the fleets that are out, & you may
depend on those of this side from your
unfeigned Freind & Obt Servt &c

Arthur Lee Esqr.

Copy

Dear Sir, Chantilly July 8th 1779

The Express that now waits on you from the field officers of these exposed counties, furnishes me with an opportunity of thanking you for your favor of the 17th ult. It is unnecessary for me to make assurances that it will give me pleasure to hear from you when your leisure permits, or that I shall rejoice at the reputation which your administration may derive from the combined application of ability, industry, and the truest affection for our country and its cause. Every good Whig will wish success to a governor whose principles of action are not the incentives of whim, or the suggestions of partiality; but who is influenced by motives of sound whiggism, which I take to be those of genuine philanthropy. Early and uniformly as we have been engaged in this great revolution, I shall not hesitate from time to time freely and without apology to give you my sentiments on such points as appear to me conducive to the security of what we have so far obtained. In Virginia we have properly two frontiers, one bordered by a wilderness, the other by a sea. into both of these issue savages. and into the latter the most savage. Our people on the former, have by long experience acquired the means of securing themselves with a good degree of success against these human brutes. The eastern frontier has not yet been so successful – Nor will it be, until a wise and good

administration

administration like that of Alfred shall apply the proper remedy, and
like him may acquire from a happy people the title of great — I suppo
that, the shores of virginia, washed by navigable waters, exceed a thous
iles. Almost the whole of this must be come at thro a passage of 20 mile
hich neglected, leaves us vulnerable thro so great an extent of coast
so we may like
eason points out the remedy, & as the historian says of Alfred, "se
sible that the proper method of opposing an enemy, who make in
cursions by sea, was to meet them on their own element, took care
rovide himself with a naval power he distributed his armed vessel
roper stations — and was sure to meet the Danish vessels either before
fter they had landed their troops, and to pursue them in all their in
sions. tho the Danes might suddenly, by surprise, disembark on the
coast which was generally become desolate by their frequent ravage
they were encountered by the english fleet in their retreat, and escap
not as formerly by abandoning their booty but paid by their total de
truction the penalty of the disorders which they had committed
ur situation is abundantly more favorable than was Alfreds for a
complishing the like purposes. Thro our capes they must come, an
thro them they must return — the width but 20 miles. proper spy
oats at sea may notify their approach, and like boats in the bay m
ive information of their entrance should they have escaped the
igilance of the former. Forts, and fixed batteries, if feeble will
taken by the enemy, if strong they will not be disturbed, and can
nly give protection to a mile or two of country round about them.
Moveable batteries are therefore the only sure and adequate defenc
But this, some say, cannot be obtained against the superior
naval force of England granted for the present. But the
disembarra

disturbance we are now to apprehend from the governmental sea force of britain is not so much — our enemies are of the privateer piratical kind — not formidable for force but much so for their more than savage brutality — The ill success with which our water defence hath been hitherto conducted has, I fear, disgusted people in general with their only true security, and renders it a most important object to remove the prejudice by an attention so wise to this object & branch, and such a vigorous application of its powers, as to convince of its utility by the security that will be derived from it. I understand that many of our vessels are unfit for use, if so, by laying them up, the few that are fitly made can be more easily [illegible] and provided with necessaries. My engagement as chairman of the marine committee for some time past, has given me an opportunity of gaining some knowledge in these matters. It is indispensable that seamen should be well provided with those things that are necessary for their situation and employment. Constant work is as necessary as grog, and grog to them is the sine qua non of action and exis-tence — Those officers therefore who have laid up their vessels in creeks and coves as some have done, have taken the most effectual way to ruin their men and unfit them for the sea service. It wd seem to me that this might be prevented by ordering the principal officers in each vessel to return their journal and logbook every month or six weeks for examination, by which it will appear how they have executed their orders and what has been their employment. By visiting them at proper times to see that their Vessels are kept in order and that due attention is paid to the seamen. I am convinced that their conduct would be accurately inspected, that the good & [illegible]

would

would be encouraged and fomented whilst the injuries and [illegible] followed the inactivity. I suppose that our bay and rivers would be long be exposed to the insults and ravage of Goodrich and his associate plunderers. I know from good information that the pirates express fear of the Maryland gallies, whilst they deride and scoff at our marine force. To these lower counties of the northern neck our situation is really distressing – exposed by land on the water, at a distance from any marine protection, a disp-ersed militia without arms or ammunition, puts it in the power of these buccaneers to insult and injure us without danger of punishment. The late destruction of Wicomico warehouses will very much disable the people of Northumberland from paying their taxes, & has given much discontent to them. In other parts of the country I hope the taxes will be cheerfully paid, as the vast abundance of money must I think enable the people easily to do it. We have in this county appointed two recruiting officers under the late act, who from their ability and popularity will I believe succeed in getting men, but they are unfurnished with money and absolutely necessary articles for the execution of their business. the act has not provided out how they are to possess themselves of the bounty to be offered the men & which without some part of it I presume they will make but a poor progress. Be pleased Sir to let me know what is to be done in this affair. Five of the recruits all but three that have deserted, and one who went with his brother to the grand army are ready to be delivered to their [illegible]. I hope that our

drawn

our late succeſses on the western frontier will effectually secure us for this campaign against the favorite war our enemies have long meditated to carry on in that quarter — The reasons aſsigned for Hamiltons treatment are strongly and pointedly set forth — His fate is well merited — He has been long known as a cruel & active partisan of the enemy in the back country — If we could but introduce economy into our expenditures and more attention to buſineſs, I think that vigorous taxation would yet redeem us from our money diſtreſs — I own I do not like the iſsuing of a million ordered by our Aſsembly.

I am affectionately your friend

Richard Henry Lee.

P. S. Affairs seem to be working well in Holland notwithstanding the influence and industry of the Orange family — I hope the majority of the provinces will presently concur in resenting the British insults on their commerce — The most powerful has already done so, by giving convoy to their Trade — Amsterdam & Harlem have already given convoy — Rotterdam & Dort were on the point of joining them.

Per S S Ben

Dear Sir (No. 318) Philadelphia 16th. July 1779

I was highly gratified with the rect. of your obliging letter of the 27th. of last month.

To deserve the esteem of all good men is the Supreme object of my Soul; Judge then Sir what my feelings must be when my conduct is approved by Colo. Lee, a Gentleman to whom (as a gratefull American) I look up with Veneration & high respect for the many, the important services he has done my Country.

I think it a great misfortune that at this critical moment we are deprived of your advice & assistance in our Councils: We feel our loss in you the more as we are alsoe deprived of that great Statesman & honest Man Mr. Adams who has ~~also~~ left us Struggling with a set of men some of whom on my conscience I believe mean not the good of America. As to the important point under debate when you left us, the F—— The honest Men have hitherto kept

kept its opposers at bay, & I am not without hopes its Friends will finally succeed in supporting it.

I have great satisfaction in acquainting you that the Dean & Boston sailed from our Capes the 5th of this month fully & well manned, with orders to scour your Bay of the little Picaroons, & I perſuade myſelf you will have heard of them before this can reach you.

The Confederacy is now at Chester having met with some damage to her main truſsletrees by lightning; I hope however ſhe will be at ſea in a few days unleſs Monſieur — Should Stop her, but I am of opinion this will not be the case as he does not seem so very anxious to be gone as he was, & he is mending in his health daily.

We are hourly expecting the Alliance as we hear She was ready to ſail having on board a great number of our poor fellows who had been Prisoners in England.

The Marine Committee have ſent forward a list of Materials & Stores for the 74 Gun Ship & Eight new Frigates hereafter to be built we have

have reason to hope these things wile be sent us from France by order of his most Christian Majesty together with a very large supply for our Army of every neceſsary for Fifty thousand men from a Braſs Cannon to a Shoebuckle.

The Minister has inform'd us that he had reason to believe all those things would be sent us imediately if applied for by Congreſs, to be paid for when Peace was established, in the manner most convenient & agreable to us.

It is in consequence of this information that the application is made & I have no doubt of the succeſs of it.

Pray do me the honor good Sir to continue your kind correspondence as often as your more important concerns wile permit you. When you have an oppo. of seeing your excellent Brother Coll. F. L. Lee pray aſsure him of my sincerest regard & Veneration.

I am very truly

Dr. Sir

Your Devoted Friend & Servt.

James Searle

No 313
Searle

Jas Searle
July 10th 79.

1779

S

Dear Sir, Amsterdam 12 July 1779

I have the pleasure of your favor of the 4th inst. I am as much convinced — as you are, of the sordid principles and wicked designs of that party who leagued against the public welfare, pretend to be its zealous champions. But I am not so much alarmed at the progreſs they have made. The succeſs they have had, so far from disheartening, is to me a firm ground of hope & confidence. I look upon it as an ignis fatuus, that will draw them more quickly to their ruin. Nor am I much concerned, that they have hitherto acted with impunity, since this impunity may embolden them to discover more quickly & fully their mischievous views & in the end aggravate their chastisement. Their succeſs and impunity have been in a great degree owing to circumstances that will militate strongly against the completion of their schemes. For that very jealousy and proneneſs to suspicion, which inclines the people to hearken to their false suggestions and calumnies; will incline them no leſs to listen to their refutation, and will facilitate a due inquisition into the deserts of those, who being their greatest enemies, impudently and for the worst purposes, aim at becoming their favourites. Their true friends standing on the vantage ground of truth, must soon diſsipate the delusion & imposition their false friends are spreading. While such is the salutary temper and disposition of the people, what Congreſs will dare act in contrariety? no, these and every set of men in power must do *Justice or cease to rule*. It is indeed a melancholy consideration that the leaders of the party have found means to make so many proselytes. I am however consoled by the hopes of seeing their party daily decrease. At all events I practices, such shameful delinquents, at a time when the flame of liberty ought to burn most fresh and pure, and the disinterested spirit of freedom be most predominant — base, sordid men, who would sell the large meed of public trust for vile trash; and be induced to descend by their narrow interests from the honourable heights they have been raised by the unbribed voices of a free people, to the level of base traders and griping contractors! What scorn, what censure, what punishment do such men merit? all that a free and incensed people can inflict. Under the impreſsion of such sentiments, I shall surely be forward to promote such an investigation as much as I can, and to make it as rigorous as poſsible — If the surmises that seem to prevail to the Northward against 61 had reached 14 he would not perhaps have been re-elected into Congreſs. I learn from some of the Gentlemen lately arrived here, that he is intimately connected with 1 and supposed to counsel or support his misconduct, and to share in the fruits of it. But trust me, the people of 14 will be too wise to continue him ~~as soon as~~ a moment after his recal ~~is~~ is urged with proper reason. Mr. Temple went for Spaa about a week ago — I have endeavour'd to learn his object in coming over, from the Gentlemen who came with him; and am told that they do not know of his having any public commiſsion, but that he is gone to Spaa in expectation to meet some of the Minority members & in hopes that he will be able to give them such hints from his acquaintance and Conversation with Congreſs as may be

do not conceive the number of them to be very dangerous.
Those only are to be feared who have combined with evil
designs; and the public virtue that has been so general and
conspicuous in America, induces me to believe they are not
many, & will not take deep root & spread their contagion
far; but like rank noxious weeds, that have suddenly
shot up in ~~the~~ a rich soil, will be soon rooted out. Let
them be pointed out to the people such as they really are,
and their triumph, their duration will be but short. With
regard to those who have joined or favour them with honest
intentions and laudable motives, tho' ~~perhaps~~ with too
much precipitance, being imposed upon by their
falsehoods and deceits; I am of opinion such will
be open to conviction and become their greatest Enemies,
the sense of the public injury being edged by their
private resentment at having their judgements misled
and abused. In the third place you are not to -
consider those as their favourers and abettors who have
not yet declared on either side; these discover a degree
of caution & prudence in suspending their judgements,
and the force with which they will act, will be
proportioned to their forbearance. This last claſs seems
to comprehend the bulk of the people. They cannot,
as you seem to apprehend, judge of it as a common
contest of parties and by general appearances. The
matter has already become too serious and of too
great moment to the public, to be paſs'd over as a
common contest between Individuals. And the people will no
doubt be easily convinced how much their dignity and
interest is concerned. If they leave it pretty much to
the Congreſs at present, it is from a ~~proper~~ commandable deference
to that aſsembly, whom they believe more competent to
a regular discuſsion of it. But they will no doubt if

neceſsary, interest themselves ~~a~~ in it with all that spirit & activity they have shewn on other occasions. I am led to think with you that the party will be silenced, should the Gentlemen with La Motte Piquet's convoy & Mr. Adams with the French Minister arrive safe. I enter fully into your sentiments concerning the expedience of removing 16 and his co-factionaries from every public post and trust that may afford them means and power to carry into effect their injurious views & private schemes against the common welfare. And I also think for the reasons you suggest ~~think~~ & many others that occur to me, that I should be wanting in duty & zeal to my Country, if I did not point out this expedience to the people as fully & forcibly as my little consequence and ability may permit. Too strict an investigation cannot indeed be made into the connexions between members of Congreſs late or present and public agents & contractors, as well as whether some members are not themselves contractors, or sharing in their gains. This appears to me a delinquency of so injurious and peculiar a nature, that I am of opinion that even suspicion is a sufficient ground for inquiry. For should those who are suspected of it paſs unnoticed and uncensured, a door would be open, encouragement and sanction given to an infinity of abuses of the most pernicious species, that might ripen into such general corruption as to prey upon & effectually consume the vitals of Liberty. If on the contrary the people or those to whom they delegate the power, shew ever a readineſs to promote such an investigation, there will not be many of these delinquents. For my part I cannot think of such offences without ~~a~~ warm indignation. I feel myself much hurt at the thought of the probability of there being already found such corrupt be improved into some plan beneficial to both Countries — I shall observe your directions respecting Mr. Beaumarchais — His discoveries to you may be productive of good effects — But you will undoubtedly be cautious of him notwithstanding his late behaviour — I shall send a Duplicate of your Letters to him directed as you desire. I was in doubt whether the two Letters you sent to be forwarded were Duplicates of each other; ~~at~~ be that as it may & unwilling to hazard both by one opportunity I thought it best to give one to Stockton, & send the other, by a fast sailing vessel that goes to morrow for Boston, under cover to a respectable gentleman who is requested to forward it with care and speed — Stockton has taken his passage & will sail for Boston in 4 or 5 days, if no unforeseen delays happen. Two more vessels arrived from Boston a few days ago, but bring no news — They will sail in the course of a month — I wait for nothing but my Books from England; they are not to be had at present in Carolina & you know there is no dispensing with them in our profession — I expect to hear of them very shortly.

My best Complim.ts to Mr. & Mrs. Izard, I should have written to him but have had nothing to say worth troubling him with — Pray be so kind as to remind Mr. Brown to send my ruffles by Mr. Dumas when he returns — Make my remembrance to your Nephew Mr. Ludwell Lee, And be assured that

I am Dr. Sir
With great Esteem
Your sincere Frd. & hble Servt.
J. Pringle

P. S. I forgot to mention that old 23 still stands high but not unshakable in the public esteem — 16 ~~is~~ ~~seemingly~~ has suffer'd very much in his reputation in the opinion of many, particularly towards his own State —

St Maurice le 1r Jlet 79

Monsieur

Il y a bien longtems Mr que j'ai envie de vous demander de vos nouvelles et de celles de votre patrie — Mais j'ai eté si mal depuis plus de 4 mois que je me regarde comme fort heureux d'être en etat de prendre la plume —— Je n'entrerai pas dans le minutieux detail de mes maux, je souhaitte plus encor que je ne l'espere qu'une goutte volante qui m'a tenu tout le corps veuille en faire la cloture — Me voici au pais des Grisons, j'y bois les eaux dont j'ai autrefois eprouvé de bons effets, auſsi je m'en trouve bien — dans peu de jours je serai chez moi ou je me fais un plaisir d'y recevoir bientost de vos nouvelles ——

J'ai vu avec regret dans votre derniere qu'il se trouve chez vous plus de faux freres que vous n'auriez crû, et qui profittent d'un tems bien critique pour pecher en eau trouble —

—— On diroit que ces sortes de contrarietez duſsent etre reservées pour les derniers tems d'une republique — Il est vrai qu'elles en apportent le germe en naissant, mais ce ne seroit point le tems ou il devroit Eclor

— Si cependant la republique est enco foible dans ces premiers moments, les individus qui la composent ont plus de resort, C'est l'instant ou le patriotisme se developpe dans toutte son energie — Il y a donc a esperer, même a parier, que ce qui seroit contagieux dans la republique qui tend a sa fin, trouvera de la resistance ou il y a encor des ames susceptibles; elles auront le courage de surmonter les dificultes aprenderont a prevenir des inconvenients devenus salutaires dans de pareilles circonstanc;

— Le tems decidera de nos conjectures, En vous souhaittant Mr une santé bien diferente de la mienne et dont vous pourez jouir plus longtems que moi j'ai l'honneur d'etre avec la plus parfaitte consideration

Monsieur

de Lezignan

Philada. July 16. 1779

Sir

Two days ago ſeveral of your Letters came to hand the latest being of April 6th. It is much to be regretted that this one in particular did not earlier arrive. One Copy of its Contents was ſent immediately to Genl. Washington and another to Govr. Trumbull, but alas too late! Fairfield had been destroyed by the Fire of the Enemy. We are mistaken, however if that Enemy does not find the Unprofitableneſs of this kind of Warfare towards their main Purpose. America must be dead indeed to all proper Spirit if such doings will not render her both vigilant & active as in the Beginning of the Contest.

It is matter of much Conjecture why you have not been able for some months back to give us interesting Accounts from Spain: all we know is through Mr. Gerard.

We have ſent so many ſetts of the Journals of Congreſs that you will doubtleſs get one. They are chiefly directed to Doctor Franklin. You will find the parts in which you were personally interested to be under the following dates April 6. 15. 20. 21. 22. 26. 28. 30. May 3. 22. 24. 25. 27. June 8.

We ſhall ſpeedily write again In the mean Time be aſsured that we are with much Regard

Sir your humb. Servants
James Lovell
for the Comtee.

Honble. Arthur Lee Esqr.

Copy Philada July 16. 1779

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Sir
your humble Servts.
James Lovell
for the Comtee
of forn Affrs

Hon. Arthr Lee
Esqr

(3plicate)

Philada July 16th 1779

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We shall ſpeedily write again In the mean Time be aſsured that we are with much Regard

Your humble Servts
James Lovell
for the Committee

Hon. Arthr. Lee Esq.

Hon.ble Arthur Lee Esq.   Bordeaux 17 July 1779

Sir

I am honored with your favors of the 30th June & July since which we are with no advices from America other than from a Captain who left Hampton Road the 22 may he was taken off Belle Isl the 1 Ins.t and put on board a Dutchman who arrived here two Days past he past before Norfolk the 22 May in the Virgin there then lay before the Harbour three English Men of War he knows nothing of the transactions related by Colier & Mathews since my last I have had some conversation with Green the late president Laurens lay very heavy in his attacks against R Morris who being no longer in Congress the debates on them divisions cease, . Mr Deane lives with General

General Arnold in Philadelphia, Arnolds Interest with Men of Consideration is not predominent and by that you may form your Judgement of Mr. Deans, who far personal Interest may influence a certain individual to openly support him be assured it only a momentary Liason. Mr Pen's dispute with Mr Laurens sprung from the same influence. Governeer Morris a Member of York Province appears a leading Member. the affairs of Mr Lees & Mr D stand Suspended til replies from Mr Lee ~~come forward~~ arrives to lay before the Committee (publick Fame) I dont find that the differences in C—s extends further than personal detractions or a watchfulness on the too growing influence of particulars in which line there is nothing to Dread

I have a strong desire to see Madrid can you employ me in any line in that department for a Month or two if you see any opening it will give me real pleasure to take a trip

thither

I have a conviction that i am on a footing with the Prince des Asturias that carries influence with it behond that of ſimple Courtesy and may occationally serve in case of any Negotiation for Money. Ships Effects or Services if you can in this point out any thing interesting my movements should be such as you would Guide I have an Idea something may be done there more than has yet been practiced but patience is the Grand Medicine where so much time is Uſeleſsly Wasted this for your Consideration

I am respectfully

Sir

Your very Hbl Serv

John Bondfield

Duplicate) Philada. July 17th 1779

Sir

The Comtee. of Congress for foreign Affairs are officially entrusted to inform you that on the 8th of June last past it was resolved to recall you from the Courts of Vienna & Berlin to which you had been appointed. But you are also to be informed that it is the Sense of Congress that you need not repair to America. You may see the Proceedings at large respecting this Business in their Journals printed authoritatively by David C. Claypoole, and being in the hands of Doctr. Franklin or Doctr. Arthur Lee at Paris.

We are Sir with sincere Regards yr. most humble Servants

James Lovell
for the Comtee. of for. Affairs

Honble. William Lee

1

Private

July 19th 1779
Philada.

Dear Sir

I wrote to you on the 13th of June, but to my Surprize found the Letter in the commercial Committee Room on the 10th of July, the Mercantile man having left it behind though he took the Journals & Gazettes to be forwarded by Mr. Bingham to France & the Hague. My above mentioned Letter was sent under Cover to Mr. J. Adams to the Care of Doct. Franklin it seems Mr. A will have left France before the Polacre,

comd. by Capt. Lapet can reach it.

It is needless to copy the whole as, now, the Weeks of the Journals are printed to which I have referred largely. Some parts however I shall now repeat.

Extr June 13 " The Term recalled having been used in regard to Wm. Lee and Ralph Izard with an Idea strenuously supported by some of bringing them to America, tho others who were affirmative meant only vacating the Commissions a second Resolve passed that they

2 need not repair to America. I give them no official notice now nor ſhall I without the particular order of Congreſs because I am again left alone, your Brother Richd having reſigned his Seat as I hear, and gone home; and further, because ſomething definitive ought to be decided in regard to Compenſation for Services of the Commiſsioners.

An attempt has ſeveral times lately been made to chuſe a new Committee of for. Affrs instead of filling up the old one. This you will perceive to be ſingularly decent towards the one who has ſteadily attended. Nay it is ſaid that ſuch a Comtee is uſeleſs. I am ſure I find an immense deal that ought to be done, and have found a great Burthen in what has been Done by a Member of Congreſs without Secretary or Clerk. Little as you and the other Gentlemen abroad may have been benefited by my Labors. Quires of my Writing have been ſunk in the Sea most of it near these Capes. =

I expect further attempts to get rid of you. It was a fear of that and a desire to ſentimine Mr D— that made Mr Lawrens, I imagine, give into
June 10th. the the late motion. But I think

3 you will riſe above the malice of the Faction which you have long known. Or, if you find your Uſefulneſs deſtroyed, you will readily tell us ſo, and deſire to make way for ſome other person. — I have by me large Packets left by yr Brother with Copies of Proceedings reſpecting you, but I will not ſend them round about as a Frigate must ſoon go directly from hence, or at leaſt a Pacqt Boat. I tell Mr J. Adams more on that head. I ſuſpect Roguery in the Stoppage of yr Letters; how else, is it that we have not a Line from any of you?

Mr S Adams goes home Tomorrow for good & all as he ſays. This goes Via Cadiz, a Copy Via Martinique

Your Friend an
humble Servant
J L

recd Journals
Apr 6 15 20 21 22 26 28.30
May 3 11 24 25 27
June 8. 10.
Letters from A Lee
Aug. 7. 11. 21 27 31
Sep 9. 30
Oct 19 R.S. Nov 29
Novr 4 $\frac{15}{18}$ 20

I will now, Sir, add a few remarks. Your Quotation from Whitlock I have read in the Congreſs to ſtrengthen what I have

4 often urged there. Nothing can
more naturally ſuggeſt itſelf to
a Politician one would think.
yet I have affirmed Truth when
I told you that the Com^{tee} was
ſaid to be now an uſeleſs Insti-
tution. —

What remark am I to now
make ~~upon~~ ſome of y^{r} Conduct
referable to the 5th Line of the
3d page of this Sheet? I will
not trust my own Judgement;
but I suspect your most ſteady
friends here will differ. I preſume
you meant to take their Opinion
as you could not at ſuch a distance
judge of all Circumſtances. Else
why cover to R.H or F.L. At
present a Veil of Secrecy is on
the Buſineſs; as well as on that
committed to R.H. or F.L or
J.L. Your Letter defensory
has been read. Y^{r} first Letter
to Shelburn brought that Water
up to the Eyes of ſome, who are
evidently unfriendly to you, which
is the Consequence of strong unexpected
admiration. The Letter from Jennings
and your Answer are as valuable
as a marble Pillar erected to the
honor of y^{r} Probity and prophetic
ſound Judgment. Bourx's is as ho-
norary to him as a ſenſible ſpirited
Gentleman as it is disgraceful to oth

all the other Vouchers were familiar to me. I have been so engaged & so unwell that I have only had the single chance of listening in Congress; but I shall renew my Pleasure soon.

The Report respect'g. superseding the Ministers was again re-committed this day, but I told the House that I could not risque Censure by not officially informing Mr. W. Lee & Mr. Izard of the Proceedings of the 8th. of June. How easy & how tollerably decent would it have been to have recalled their Commissions for the Reasons l'd down in the original Report of the Committee of 13. — vid 2d. head Apr. 15th. but the 4th. head was meant to accomplish the point with you; the most sanguine not being discouraged at the Idea of killing Doct. F— secundarily, or sacrificing all Character in themselves of Impartiality upon the Groundwork on which they meant to gibbit your Fame. But I have said all my Eye sight will allow at this late hour of the Night and the Express goes off at Dawn.

Yr affectionate Friend

J L

3plicate

Philada. July 17. 1779.

Sir

The Committee of Congreſs for foreign affairs are officially entrusted to inform you that on the 8th of June last past it was resolved to recall you from the Courts of Vienna & Berlin to which you had been appointed: But you are also to be informed that it is the Sense of Congreſs that you need not repair to America. You may ſee the Proceedings, at length, respecting this Buſineſs in their Journals printed authoritatively by David C Claypoole, and being in the Hands of Doctr. Franklin or Doctr. Arthur Lee at Paris

We are, Sir, with ſincere Regards
Your most humble Servants
James Lovell
for the Comtee. of for. Affrs.

Honble. William Lee Esqr.

P.S. Sepr. 16

your Letters of Feb 25 Mar 8/16 17 25 have been read in Congreſs.

Virginia Gazette July 17th 1779

Baltimore June 29th

Extract of a Letter from Philadelphia dated June 22d 1779

Our present situation is truly alarming, and is briefly as follows: A Junto early formed in Congress have by some means, or other contrived to keep their principal Leaders either actually in the House, or in some of the most important departments; & by acting constantly in concert have at last brought it about that the Minority & a small one too can retard, delay or obstruct every proceeding. The foundation of this [illegible] was laid during the sitting of the first Congress — At that period there were many real grounds [illegible] some pretended ones for suspecting Mr. and one or two others of the middle States. This naturally led the Northern and Southern ones to unite the more strictly on the measures they were pursuing to obtain the great objects in view — It is not my intention to give the History of this Junto at present but will only inform you that for upwards of twelve months past a Club has formed of certain of the Delegates from N.E. — N.J. and this State & of two or three Members from the Southward. They meet regularly, debate upon and adjust the manner of their proceedings, and Congress at all times being a fluctuating and changing Body, these men acting in concert are able to keep back or obstruct any measure whatever until by the absence of some Members and the division of others they can with a small Majority carry the vote as they please — I have read attentively and perused Mr. D. narrative, and I find that the first thing done by him after his return was to inform Congress that a foreign loan if early & properly applied for might be obtained but that delay rendered it more uncertain and difficult — The necessity of our procuring a foreign loan is generally acknowledged, and as we now experience paper currency to be not property, but only the representative of money, it seems to be the desire of the people that this measure should be adopted, but already a Jealousy has arisen, who the Persons are that shall have the negotiating of it! Which has already produced much conversation in general relative to the Plenipotentiaries to be sent abroad on this important Business. The Character with which Mr D— retired from the Court of France, and the Reputation he

[redacted]

it was apprehended he would acquire from the Treaties & the Fleet solicited for and obtained by him, together with the little attention (much too little for his interest or peace) which he paid those who formed this Cabal and who he knew had been secretly his Enemies, set these men to move every engine in their power to prevent his receiving the Approbation of Congreſs for what he had done, or having any opportunity to serve his Country further — Effectually to do this every artifice was made use of to delay a decision on his affairs & to spread in the meantime calumnious insinuations against him among the people. Unjustly and ungratefully indeed he has been treated! but had he only suffered, if this had been all we might have been happy. Many are the Evils the public have laboured under in consequence of this; the Parties and Factions raised on his and Mr Lee's acct have retarded, and put off matters of infinite greater importance, and in fact brought us into our present disagreeable situation.

Tis certain that France does not wish a continuance of the war — Spain has long since been arming and as early as Nov last, formerly offered her mediation & plainly declared she would no longer remain an inactive Spectator of the ruins of the Commerce of France if her mediation should be refused. France justly supposing that England would on this incline to peace and apprehensive that application might be made to Congreſs to treat separately immediately sent to their Minister here, to apply to Congreſs & to urge them (if they needed urging) to lose no time in coming to resolutions, on what terms they would treat, and to appoint a person or persons to repair to Europe with ample powers for that purpose; At the same time the strongest aſsurances were given of the friendship and aſsistance of France & even of Spain if their Resolutions, as to the terms of a Treaty of peace were such as should be honorable and just — The Minister waited on Congreſs early in Feby with a meſsage and information to this purpose, and in a long interview with them preſsed on them dispatch the most forcible terms — This was really the subject which gave rise to the report of great and good news with which the whole Continent was some time amused — England on her part rightly judging that Spain could not take an active part until her mediation should be refused and that she could not without knowing the terms of America have any grounds to go on with certainty; and doubtleſs finding other means to amuse and delay Spain determined to exert her whole force during this interval, and try the fortune of another Campaign, in which such events might arrive as might enable them to treat with more advantage on their side — They were ther induced to this, by having the supplies chearfully voted in the House of C— and ving no Continental war in Europe they had no fear of losing any thing, and might gain uch — In discuſsing what had been communicated & proposed by France to Congreſs objects are said to have been in view; the first what terms should be and then who s'd be ent over charged with them — What and how many terms Congreſs have [illegible] I know not but tho' the Minister has been every week urging them to finish they have to this hour delayed giving him any answer — The Difficulty arises from the N. E. delegates insisting as I am informed on making our right to fish on the banks of N. F. L'd — sine qua non

They are as is credibly whispered joined in this by some Gentlemen from the other extremity of these States and who firmly stand by each other as they [illegible] cally to serve and carry on each others purposes. Thus as far as I can learn the matter rests at present, and thus have the people of these States been deceived with the hopes of peace whilst by these measures they will be exposed to suffer all the extremeties of the reverse. You will justly be surprised when I tell you that our Commiſsioners from Paris appear totally ignorant of what is doing in either France, Spain, or England for it is impoſsible they should be informed, and never write one syllable about it.

But what must be your surprise when I aſsure you that Congreſs was informed and that by two of their Members in writing that the French Minister had expreſsly declared and wrote that he could place no confidence in Mr. Lee for he feared, or suspected him and those about him; What, I say, must be your surprise to find this party able after this to counteract a large, majority of Congreſs and prevent his recall! It is well known this Gentleman's former private Secretary was of a very suspicious character, that after going several times privately back and forth from Paris to London he took up residence in London under protection of the British Ministry & that the man who succeeded him as Mr. Lee's Secretary was one Ford a most infamous Tory & Refugee Parson from London whither he had fled from Virginia to avoid the vengeance of his Countrymen and where he lived like other Refugees untill he went over to Paris and entered on his Secretary Ship under Mr. Lee — You will hardly credit this but they are facts and have long since been well attested and laid before Congreſs — By this one instance you will be able to judge of the Strength of this Minority & to what lengths they will go in promoting private views, and supporting of their party family connexions & interest — Were I to give you all the instances which have come to my knowledge of transactions of a similar Complexion and of the wretched, deranged, State of our fina in other departments and also of the trifling Subjects which have repeatedly engaged Congress for days and weeks together during the last important six or eight months, I should fill a volume and might with great propriety entitle it The book of Lamentations - but to lament is to no purpose and unless different measures are pursued I dread the consequences. Governor Johnson you must remember openly declar in Parliament that he had made use (when in America) of other means than th persuasion & agreement to effect the purposes of his Comm — what those mea were the present times demonstrate: they already begin to have their dreadful effects

Anarchy is now labouring to rear her tattered but bloody Standard in this Capital. In a word unless this party and faction can be broke, (for until it is these measures will be pursued) we shall be in danger at least of being ruined & that suddenly by ourselves. You will communicate the contents of this to whom you think proper but I fear at this time that the public at large should know eve [illegible] in its situation, and yet it is cruel to keep them in suspence & ignoran whilst accumulated ruin is preparing to burst on them from every quarter —

I will give you one instance with what industry this Party this select Phalanx conduct their Manœuvres. the night before it was expected the Question on Mr. Lee's recall was to be put, an express was sent off into Jersey to call Dr. W— and Dr. S—r Dr. W. was alarmed at 3 o'Clock in the Morng. & set off instantly to be in Congress before the Question should be put and Dr. S. who lived more remote travelled the same [illegible] miles with as much expedition as if they had been [illegible] the Enemy — they arrived in season and by the paper sent you you will see how they voted O tempora! O Mores! &c.

Coblentz 19th July 1779.

Dear Sir

Being encouraged as I have been by your last letter, I will continue to write to you in English as long as you will not be tired of my correspondence. The long desired event of the joining of the Spaniards with us, being now realized, I hope that you will soon fulfill the post to which you have been so long designed. Though I must regret to be by that means at a greater distance from you, I rejoice at the same time to see one employed whom I think so able of making well in every respect. I had already heard of the trouble which Mr. Deane's return to America had occasioned, but I assure you that had I not had previous notions of his character and of his ~~par~~ partner, the opinion I have of your's would have been sufficient to fix my judgment. I make no doubt that at the end the good cause will entirely prevail notwithstanding the measures of your Ennemies. 28 has perhaps thought expedient not to pronounce about the question as long as 61. will stay in America, which will perhaps not last long, since has I heard his successor is long since departed. I don't wonder that there be some illintentioned people who under the pretence of a private cause endeavour to attack the public wellfare, because there are always in every Republic obnoxious men who are ready to shake and even destroy it provided they hope to plunder it. But I have great hopes that Your Republic is now well establish'd, though I cannot be convinced that it will ever be entirely quiet. The sentiments you expreſs towards your Ennemies are worthy a generous Gentleman and a good patriot.

When I have first written to you that I whish'd all men would be happy, I at the same time whished that they should deserve it. I Know very well that this wish is one of those which are not to be filled.

I am certainly not in the secret about the measures which our court takes towards Your Country, but I would venture to be a pledge that it never espoused the cause of Mr. Deane. It would be as much against its principles as against its dignity.

I hope you will soon let me Know some agreable news as well relating to You as the Common cause. I hope for succeſs in every point.

Mde. de Moustier presents her compliments to you. She is constantly employed in the office of a good Mama who takes that care of he child which natures requires. I live very happi in her society and am very well satisfied to stay in my corner, where, if not very busy, I am at least very quiet.

I have the honour to be Sir with the grea esteem your most humble obedient Servant

Le Cte. de moustier

Sir

Having received no late information from your Excelly I have employed myself as usual.

On the 15th a body of the British landed in the evening on Stony-point, they reimbarked early in the night taking with them the brass twenty four left by us.

Yesterday another body landed on Verplank's during the day baggage was put on shore in great quantitys.

The major part of the army from intelligence receiv'd from below, lay encamped near Tellers point, which is just below the mouth of Croton river. The Cavalry are part of this army.

It is probable this day will determine whether Stony

point is to be opposed. Whatever
may happen shall be commu-
nicated without loss of time.

A marauders party landed
two days since at the Slote, they
collected a few cattle, but before
they got on board was attacked
by the guard lost most of their
plunder two men killed & seven
prisoners— I have the honor to
be Sir most respectfully
your Excys most obt Servt

Wm Hull Lt Col Comd

Haverstraw July 21. 79

From
Majr Hull
21 July 1779
Ansd 22d

Mr. Franklin junr. presents his respectful Compliments to Mr. Lee, & has the honour of sending him inclosed a Letter which came last Night under Cover to Dr. Franklin from N. America via Martinique.

Passy July 21st 1779.

Dear Sir

Since my last I have seen a Gentleman from London who has informed me that Mr. [illegible] was in ~~[illegible]~~ & there so that no doubt you are by this time better acquainted with his views and motives for coming to Europe than I can make you — Mr. Sayre set out yesterday for Paris; his design is to go a volunteer in the army went to Prussia England, if things answer his expectation. There is a vessel now building on his new plan, which it is said will be finished in 5 weeks, in her he intends to go to America. He told me that he meant to call on you, he will therefore probably communicate to you his situation and views. I have convers'd much with him, and do not find that he is disposed to say or do any thing injurious to you, or serviceable to your enemies; he seems to think himself ill treated by Dr. F — & I have seen slighting behaviour towards him — I have seen some resolutions, of Congress in the English papers respecting the Commissioners, according to which you are continued in your appointment for Spain & Dr. F. for ~~[illegible]~~ France and all the other Commissions are suspended as being at present unnecessary. Pray have you any advices relat to the matter. The papers mention also a glorious compleat victory obtained in Carolina over the British Troops, but I am afraid tis too good to be true — I wait with the utmost anxiety further accounts. ~~The~~ A vessel arrived here yesterday from No. Carolina who left it ~~early in~~ the middle of May, but brings no news. If the account of the victory in Carolina is not true, I believe I will take passage in this vessel which will return in 2 or 3 weeks at furthest. It is a very small vessel but a fast sailer — You will continue to send ~~us~~ me any letters you wish to be forwarded; there are frequent opp.ts from hence to America — if any disasters happen to us in Carolina to prolong the war there, I shall probably enter in the army for the occasion; or if the Town should unhappily fall into our Enemies hands, I shall go to Philadelphia or Virginia, in which case letters from you may be of use to me. I am

Dr Sir
With much Esteem
Yr sincere Frd &
Hble Servt
J Pringle

Amsterdam
July 22. 1779

[illegible] John de Neufville [illegible]
~~[illegible]~~
Amsterdam. [illegible]

P. S. Stockton expects every day to sail in a
Brig for Boston —

Honoured Sir

Having heard since here of your not being in Public capacity I would Humbly Address you as a friend tho you may not personally know me you may have heard of my being in Forton Prison 28 Months & now Arrived in France. I would request the favour of you Sir to intercede with his Excellency our Ambassador to make some provision for these my fellow Sufferers which came over in the Cartel wth me, as the Agent here cannot advance them any thing for their present Subsistance. In a friends country where they expected at least to be provided with Ships, or to be supported a reasonable time untill they could provide them selves.—

Such of them as have been taken in Continental or State Service must think it cruel to be Abandon'd in a Strange country without knowing one Word of the Language. There is one who has lost an Arm: others that have lost fingers in the Service, which are among this number. I am sure that if the people in Boston knowd, & I make no doubt but they will soon know by the return of the Cartell. that of being confined five days after the Arrival at Point Beauf in a close Ship. & when suffered to go a shore. to be under the Necessity of going in the French Service or Starve. I Believe many of them would prefer the British Service, — I could wish Sir you would please to represent them in the strongest manner I will endeavour all I can to keep them quiet in the Interim & will endeavour all I can to get a small subscription for their present support from the American Gentlemen of this Place. I can say no more I could sincerely wish the Report of their being Enlisted here should never reach England it would make our Friends in that quarter very unhappy while our Enemies would Glory in the thought. I am under the Necessity of Disposing of my watch for the support of a Midshipman & myself who was taken with me and has been with me ever since the beginning of these troubles in the Virginia service, I have requested his Excellency that he would please to de [illegible] me his pleasure by the return of the Post. & could wish you would honour me also with your commands. I am Honorable

Your most Obed^t & most Humble
Servt

Nantes July the 2^d 1779

John Harris

Referring to what I had the Honor to write you the 17 [illegible] with the money of [illegible] it would be of service to me in the present Daungt situation of my finances your [illegible] [illegible] as follows

I acknowledge to be indebted to J. D. [illegible] Williams [illegible] shipt on board his ship the General [illegible] for account of the United States the Sum of forty two thousand nine hundred fifty Livres which Sum I promise to pay him out of the proceeds of remittances to be sent me by the said State with interest [illegible] from the sixth September next to the Day of [illegible] payment   Paris   July 1777

as it would cause me to Lodge in [illegible] of Bond with my Banker on whom I have occasion to value sometimes upon account of the Funds he has of mine in his hands

I join you in condemning the not sending [illegible] the ships the Failure may be very hurtful by permitting them thro' want of support to fall into the hands of [illegible]

You are not unacquainted with the removal of Capt. [illegible] from the Ranger on account of Views the French Minister had of employing him in an enterprize against the Baltick Fleet laying at Shetland. Delays, Misunderstandings, and the open Support of France ~~[illegible]~~ spoken plain at that time but Jones could no longer Command in the French Service not having any longer the want of a Mask. two Frigates were sent out in the Service who returned without having effected any good. C Jones remained a Load on the Ministry Mons Le Roy de Chaumont Commissair General de Marine to equip the Duras an old EastIndiaman, Mr L R d C has the sole superintendency. the Artillery & Stores are taken from the Kings Arsenals to be replaced by M L R d C who pays all the Bills I dont believe she is either Continental or French State Ship yet I find two French Kings Armed Ships sailed from Lorient under his command it has not the appearance of a Loyal armament he fell in with two French Frigates in his late Cruize but could not or would not answer their Signals he possibly has them not this is all I at present can tell you. C J has had disputes with many of his Officers so they write me upon the whole it appears a new forced Birth I am Respectfully

Sir

Your very hble Servt

(No 308)

24 July. 1779

I have been provok'd at last to write freely as I tho't. Perhaps those who do not feel the insult & the wicked impudence of his insinuations may blame me, but I can't help it. In my place & with my connections few people wd. have restrain'd themselves so long as I have done. Send Ludw at all events & Dr. Bush also, for it will be impossible to get any one there to undertake such a Journey on such an errand where they are not concern'd. I shall go to the Post house at Valenciennes where the Post horses are kept, there shd. come & I wish them to be there early in the day, viz. on the 2d. of Augst. which I fix'd that there might be no excuse for want of time. The Journey will be horrible to me in this weather but I can't let the wretch escape. Send his Letter Seal'd. —

'Tis farther from hence to V—nes & an infinitely more disagreeable Journey than from hence to Paris, besides I cannot do any thing in the Queens Country as he calls it, because if I live, my future residence must be somewhere there,

No 308

Wm Lee to A Lee
July 24th 1779

1779

Frankport 24th July 1779

Sir

Your letter dated the 16th of this Month, which you took care shou'd not leave Paris till the 18th, was not necessary to convince me of your being such an abandon'd & worthless wretch, that it is in truth a disgrace for a Gentleman to have any connection or contention with you! ——————

After voluntarily inlisting yourself the dirty tool of as dirty a Junto, as ever disgraced Society in the worst of times —— Forging & propagating the most wanton & infamous falsehoods against my character to make it as black as your own —— Refusing to atone for such atrocious conduct in the most unwarrantable language —

Declining to meet me at Lisle, (which cost me a heavy & useless Journey of more than ten days & fifty Louisdor's expence) to answer for your iniquitous proceedings & insulting Letter of the 10th of May last, under an Excuse which most probably existed as much at the time of your writing that Letter, as it did when you were appointed to meet me.

After advising me of your ability & determination to meet me when I fixed a place on the Frontiers of France & Germany for our meeting, as proper a Spot as any in Europe for such a decision, being on one Side within half an hour of France & on the other within an hour of the Palatinate, in neither of which Dominions cou'd any Cognizance be taken of what was done in the Bishopric of Spire, three days

Journey

Journey from you & nearly two from me — with an effrontery that would very ill become any body but Mr. Saml. Petrie, you refuse to meet me at the place appointed, but say you will, if I choose it, meet at Lisle or Valenciennes, either of which is full five heavy days Journey from me with part of the road as bad as almost any on the Continent & neither of them more than two very easy days Journey from you with as fine a road as any in the World. This infamous procedure to be more characteristic of the writer, is is accompanied with your telling me, you have inform'd yourself about the Etiquette of right in cases of Honor as to the place of meeting & which you are inform'd always is the Spot as equally as possible convenient to both Parties. Thus we see what little influence your information relative to Etiquette has had on your conduct.

1775

I have not a doubt but that the occupation you have been engaged in for some time past, will compel you soon to quit your present residence, when it will be necessary for you to pass thro' Lisle or Valenciennes in order to return to your employers; however I am determin'd, if it costs me double the Journey & double the expence, that you shall not escape that chastisement which your nefarious conduct so richly merits, therefore to prevent any future Evasion I am to inform you that I shall be at Valenciennes the Second day of August next, which is giving you full time, where I demand your presence.

I am Your Humble Servt.

William Lee

Mr. Samuel Petrie
Paris.

To [illegible] Samuel Petrie Esqr.

Sir/ Paris July 30th 1779

I this day receivd my Brother W. Lee's request to inform you - That to remove all your objections, he will be at Valenciennes the 2. of ~~August~~ this month, where he expects to have the honor of seeing you without fail. I have the honor to be Sir

Yr. most obedt. Servt

A. Lee

P.S. You will hear of Mr. Lee at the Post House Valenciennes

Wm Lee to Saml Petrie
July 24th 1779
A. Lee to S. Petrie
July 30th 1779 — approved

Wm Lee's affair
with S. Petrie, author
of the [illegible] that
Wm Lee had given in-
formation of the signing
of the treaty

To
Mr Samuel Petrie
Paris

Copy of a Letter to Capt. Musco Livingston

I am very much Oblig'd to you for the favor of your Letter which I should Answer more fully to you & speak to you more at large about the infamous Conduct of Wharton, had not both Mr Diggs & Myself — fully done it & transmitted it to Mr Izard from whom you you may be more particularly inform'd & will have the pleasure of knowing that Mr Lloyd must be in the fullest Manner clear'd of the false Accusation of Wharton, & that your Certificate was a just one. Mr Diggs has mentioned two or three people who also saw the Letter which Wharton so infamously denied & which your Certificate so fully speaks to.

I most sincerely wish you a good Voyage

Sign'd Richd Champion.

July 25th 1779

Dear Sir   St. Amand 26th. July 1779. —

Mrs Izard has just informed me that the Proces has been decided against me. I have just time by this post to request the favour of you to go immediately to Versailles & speak to [illegible] Maurepas on the subject. This unjust decision surprizes me the more, as Count Maurepas seemed perfectly convinced of the propriety of restoring my things to me. You will be so good as to let him know that I am ill at this place, which is the reason of my not applying to him myself.

I am Dr Sr

Your friend

R. I. —

The Gazette of the 10th which I have seen in the Courier de l'Europe, makes me very uneasy. Prevost's progress is most unaccountable to me. —

Dear Sir, [No 314] Philadelphia July 30th 1779

It is extremely unlucky for us that Capt
Read could not dispose of my certificates in Statia,
because we are in great want of the linnen they were to
have purchased however, since it is so, be so kind as receive
and keep the certificates for me until I write you further on the sub-
-ject. ~~[illegible]~~ I have a very high opinion
of our friend T. M. and as bad a one of H—r & Co.
The former has already done ~~[illegible]~~ much good to the
cause of America, the latter essential evil and are
capable of and will undoubtedly execute every vil-
-lainy in the world to obtain the object they have in
view, which is enormous wealth. They are however
as artful as they are wicked, and, as you say, "under
cover of high office" will pervert every thing to private
emolument. They will ~~[illegible]~~ require such a guard
as our friend T. M. whose universal acquaintance,
sound sense & penetration, with indefatigable perse-
-verance; can alone detect them & unravel their subtlety, protected as they are by
power; ~~[illegible]~~ these
hitherto successful plunderers of the public will again escape with impunity. I have
long thought exactly as he does of this transaction, and I
will venture any thing upon the issue of it. that the osten-
-sible cause of this purchase comes not here for it— But what
then, flour sells amazingly high in the West Indies, leave
may be obtained for sending it to the ostensible cause, and
when there, sold for private emolument as an article of
commerce, the public receiving here the prime cost in paper
money, which by that time may be depreciated a thousand
pr Cent. Pretty business this— Infinite pains, and the best
information both here and in the West Indies will be necessary
to detect these bad men. If our friend T. M. accomplishes
this, (as I realy believe he will when once firmly engaged in it)
he shall be my Magnus Apollo, and he will undoubtedly ~~America~~ I observe
by breaking up a nest that will otherwise disgrace & ruin it.
deserve the thanks of every good man in America
that Mr. T. M. & Mr P— are both attacked by a
scribler in yr Evening Post of July 9th under the signature

of Cato, a wretch who is as much their inferior in every worthy respect, as ~~[illegible]~~ virtue is superior to the dregs of vice — You ~~think~~ may suppose by this that I know the author of Cato, I think myself as sure of it as I am that *Morrisania* is known at *New York* —

The peculiar affrontery of the man, his real shallowness, his dogmatic determinations, and his pedantic display of reading, or rather affectation of having read much more than he ever did, are some of the circumstances that point him out who dictated *Cato*, this repeated specimen of his corruption & his impudence — This Scribbler, uniform in nothing but profligacy, assumes the name of Cato, tho no more resembling either the great men of that name than an infant is like to Hercules, or extreme opposites to one another — The author of this rhapsody being vice in the abstract, and the others men of consummate virtue — ~~[illegible]~~ Let us call him ~~then~~ Morrisania instead of Cato — He begins with ~~agreeing~~ that "an anonymous detractor is the serpent of society" yet he ~~begins~~ proceeds ~~immediately~~ immediately to act this very serpent by grossly traducing some by name, others by innuendo, and signs himself Cato — A fulsome eulogy of ~~[illegible]~~ himself, and some others, almost as bad as himself, mark another part of this production — It has been the practice of bad men, deceivers of the public, in all ages, to accomplish their nefarious purposes by mixing some truth with much falsehood, by loud mouthing attempts in favor of the public cause & public men — Thus ~~Syphax~~ Sempronius will bellow for Rome & Cato &c — Morrisania will scribble for the American Fabius, he will bluster for Peace, be against receiving the cries &c of the orphan & the widow, to increase the number of those who groan in captivity, to add weight to their chains, and aggravate the afflictions of the afflicted" This milky meekness he supposed would never be imagined to come from *One* whose heart is known to be harder than adamant, who ~~[illegible]~~ cares as little for ~~[illegible]~~, Orphans, Captives, or the Afflicted; as he greatly cares for, and glories in every refinement upon vice — Morrisania is of opinion that "every other our representatives in Congress has a right to expect protection from the virtuous whigs of America, while in the execution of his duty" He would insinuate by this that a member of Congress must *necessarily* do his duty, and therefore, at all events deserve protection &c — This is no doubt a fine doctrine for a Galloway or ~~Alexander, or~~ Allen, ~~[illegible]~~ and all such as may resemble them — But the doctrine of truth will teach us, that no man deserves ~~the~~ protection from the "virtuous Whigs of America"

whether he is in, or out of Congress, unless his virtuous, ~~and~~ innocent, &
able conduct entitle him to it. The cloven foot of Morrisania is
fully exposed to view whilst he labors to persuade that the
right of fishing on our own coasts need not be stipulated in a treaty
of peace — He admits that this important right "should not be given up" in the most
distressful situation of our affairs" — "That the God of nature has made
it a common benefit" For this then we have the great authority of
a scribler in the evening post — Who at the same time admits that Selden
the ~~[illegible]~~ King of G. Britain & his Predecessors, have in divers public acts affirmed
the contrary — Which then must America rely upon, the opinion of
this misnamed Cato, or that of Selden & the Kings of Great Britain
or are we not to conclude that unless our right be stipulated by
treaty the latter will continue to assert their exclusive claims,
and say to us hereafter — You knew our claims, and you also
knew that this speculative right which you rely upon has ever
been esteemed so trifling that the wisest nations have deemed it
necessary to have both the right and the limits ~~of the~~
of this fishery fully & fairly described in Treaties of Peace.
Your silence therefore on this subject, in a treaty of peace wherein
you specifically mark out your rights, is a full and complete
cession of the fisheries in the American seas to those who by former treaties
had considered them in the light of exclusive property described by
certain metes and bounds — By the Treaty which terminated the
last war between France & G. Britain, altho the latter joined to her
claim of Mare clausum, the much better title of North America
to those fisheries, yet she deemed it necessary to have the point
fixt by express acknowledgement in the Treaty — Nor would
France be satisfied without a description in the same Treaty of
such parts of the fishery as she might use — Also this would have
been unnecessary upon the principles of this pseudo politician
because "if after a peace ~~[illegible]~~ G. Britain should disturb us in the exercise
of that right, I conceive (says he) such disturbance to be among those
lawful causes of war ~~w~~ which would justify us in a declaration
of it, and in calling upon our Allies to assist us." ~~[illegible]~~ How ridiculous ~~absurd~~
is this writer, but such is the nature of error; he thinks it absurd
to call upon our Ally to prosecute the war for this purpose now,
but it would ~~[illegible]~~ be a very just cause hereafter! Now,
when our ~~Ally~~ great & good Ally has freely engaged not to
conclude either Truce or peace with G. Britain without the formal
consent of his American Ally first obtained; it would be unreaso-
=nable to desire his aid for the prosecution of our Independence
as well in matters ~~of~~ Commerce as of ~~Government~~, but

R. H. Lee to (No. 314)

July 30th 1779

hereafter when a peace shall have been concluded, and all obligation to contend for this commercial independence cease, then should be a clear right in us to call upon our Ally to enter into a new war for the attainment of this branch of our Commerce which will have been tacitly yielded by an unpardonable silence on our part at the very moment ~~that~~ when the practice of nations has evinced the necessity of being unequivocally clear and express? Without the aid of a Maritime power, & without a navy of our own (for we shall thus have foolishly given away our only nursery of seamen) we must begin a Sea war with one of the greatest maritime powers in the world - Fine policy this, and well worthy of a Man who affecting to know all things, realy knows little of any thing. These fisheries were first discovered by our Ancestors, they are ~~[illegible]~~ contiguous to our coasts, they have been uniformly enjoyed by our Ancestors & ourselves, they are indispensable to our existence as a people who would carry on an independent commerce - Our good, and powerful Ally has declared the object of his Alliance with us to be to maintain effectually the liberty, sovereignty & independence absolute & unlimited of the United States as well in matters of government as of commerce, and that neither of the two parties shall conclude either truce or peace with G. Britain, without the formal consent of the other first obtained - It has been the policy of the wisest nations to have their rights of fishing described in Treaties - In defiance of all these, a scribbler in the Evening Post &c would persuade us to say nothing about it, but go directly to war again with G. Britain if she molests us in the exercise of a right which the Author of Nature has made common. I am dear Sir your much obliged friend and obedient servant

Richard Henry Lee

P. S. Surely the justice of Congress will incline them to give Dr. Lee's defence to the public - they cannot mean to keep their Constituents hoodwinked on a point of so much consequence as the innocence or guilt of their public servants

dogmatic affrontive as Morrisianus is, his impudence cannot be great enough to insist on this as proper, and affrontive as he is, he knows himself too well to ~~[illegible]~~ a pompous display among those who

July 30. 1779

Sir

This Evening your Nephew deliver'd to me your Letter of this Day's Date, in which you say, that your Brother had desired you to inform me, that he should be at Valenciennes the 2.^{d} of next Month, when he expected to see me without fail. — In my Letter to him of the 30.th of last Month, I desired, on Account of my Indisposition, that he would give me a Week or ten Days, after the Receipt of his Letter, to convey myself to the Place of Meeting. And in my Letter of the 16.th of this Month, I told him, that my Health would not permit me to undertake the long Journey he had proposed *for me*. —. With this full Information of my present Situation, you tell me on Friday Evening, that your Brother will be at Valenciennes on Monday, when he expects to see me, without fail. — —. I will make no Comments on the liberality of this Proceeding, nor on the Circumstance of your conveying a Message to me from your Brother, on this Business, without a Line from himself; but, barring

barring Accidents, will be at Valenciennes, at the time appointed, or in the course of the succeeding Day, when I shall enquire for Mr. Lee at the Post House as you desire.

I have the Honour to be

Sir

Yr most obt Servt

J. Petrie

Rue Ste Anne
Friday Eveng
July 30.. 1779.

Arthur Lee Esqr.

S. Petrie to A. Lee
July 30th 79

(No. 315) July 31st. 1779

Dear Sir

Since I wrote you last I
have recd. a Duplicate of all the Papers
which I have mentioned therein to you
as having been ſent by yr. Brother Ar.
I found also in the 2d. Packet ſome th
were not in the first. I have kept
will enable me to ſubſerve his Ho
except a few that you will be ſ
as to return when you have either
pied or extracted what you wish
retain. I think the Originals are mo
eſsential for me than for you just
at this Juncture. I shall be careful
of them as your family-property. I
kept also the duplic: of July 27 directe
to F L L ——

I have also this day recd. many
Packets Via Boston with only two L
for you. both which I ſend. I remember
well you got the Letter Arendt left
behind at Millers I forwarded it
afterwards. As to Williams there
is no Propriety in consulting Congreſs
about the publication. You will act
your own Judgement & that of your
Friends in Virginia. I think Ard. has
ſaid more than Willm. has. I need not
add that Arthr. ſays things well.

I cannot but regret more & more
that you Francis & S A are not
here, now, furnished thus at ever
Points. I am worn down wit
writing in addition to the vexatio
tendance on the Debates in Chesnut
but I hope to be able to g

an analytical & chronological concise View of the diabolical Lies & intentional Assassination of which Deane was flagrantly guilty on the 5th of Decr. last. — I have by me a similar State of the Matter to that which I sent you to be forwarded by Post on Tuesday to S. A unless the Express goes sooner: so that Mr A will have it in his Power to destroy totally in Massachusetts, by little judicious Specs, as he used to phrase News Paper writing, all the Prejudices which may happen to have been raised there by yr innuendo Man. Mr A thanks me in a Letter of the 19 for something of the Kind but I really have forgot what it was I sent early enough for an Answer already.

Not a single Line to the Comtee from B. F. though large Packets are come from him, old News Papers Intelligence sent him from Ports from Week to Week &c &c. There is a very long Letter to me expressly to me with an interdiction of the Public, tho it is wholly on a Topic concerning the Public — the Impropriety of 3 at one Court — Complementary of Deane and shewing that Holland is ripe to receive him. But the Oddity of all is that it is dated July 22d 1778 forwarded by J Williams Nantes Feb 25 1779. is in answr. to mine of May 15 1778. He say much indeed upon the good Principles which were the basis of the 11th & 12th articles, reducible however to this one point which he plainly expresses viz: that Duties on Exports are Pick-pocket Arts and too mean to be practiced even in the Line of Retaliation.

I can only add a word or two on home matters, for I am really faint for want of Sleep.

Fish.y in *no case* to be given up. Stat to enter into no Treaty of Com.ce without unan consent unless free Exercise is stipulat regard to that matter; and to resent w the whole force of the Union any molest These Determinations spring from the Unani mously declared Opinion that it is essential to the Welfare of all these U.S. that the citizens thereof sh.d enjoy the free unmolested common Rights of Fishery. We must be satisfied with *tacit* assurance of Indepey

Good night, my dear Sir

and print it unless you get it from the Westward or otherwise.

(No 315)

Jas Lovell
July 31st 79.

(Deane)

31st July 1779
Hon. James Lovell

Honble
Col. R. H. Lee

Jany 1779

The Commee on the Memorial of Capt Joa Garcia Duarte & the Report thereon according to order brought in a Report

Whereupon

Resolved that the Board of War at Boston forthwith deliver to the said J. G. Duarte, if he shall require it, or to his order all the Coin now in their hands & all the goods yet unsold being parts of the Cargo of the Snow Nostra Senhora de Carmel & Sant Antonio.

Yeas & Nays - nem con -

Resolved - that authenticated Copies of the said Memorial & Representation of the said J. G. Duarte & all the other Papers relative thereto the said Snow her Cargo and proceedings had thereon be transmitted to His Excelly. the Governor of the State of Virginia & like Copies transmitted to His Excy. the President of the State of Pennsylvania & to the Honble. the Council of the State of Massachusets Bay & that it be recommended to the said Powers respectively to cause the most speedy & effectual measures to be taken that full reparation & satisfaction be made & given to the said J. G. Duarte & the Owners of the said Snow & Cargo for the injury sustained in the ~~unjust~~ Capture & detention of the said Snow by Joseph Cunningham late Commander of the private Armed Schooner Phania as appears from the Papers & exhibits aforementioned. (3)

Resolved. that it be further recommended to the said Powers that the most effectual measures be taken within their respective jurisdictions for apprehending & bringing to condign punishment the said Joseph Cunningham Carter Braxton & any other person or persons, that

may

may justly be deemed guilty of the seizing & Capturing of
the said J. G. Duarte with the said Snow her crew
& Cargo in violation of the Laws of Nations, to the
end that the good faith & honor of these United States
the rights of Neutrality & Laws of Nations may be
inviolably maintained & supported

On the question for inserting "Carter
Braxton" which was moved by Mr
Gerry & seconded by Mr Laurens
the Yeas & Nays required by Mr Griffin

Mr Peabody – ay

Mr Gerry
Mr Lovel } ay
Mr Holten

Mr Marchant ay.

Mr Huntington
Mr Spencer } ay

Mr Jay
Mr Morris } ay

Mr Fell
Mr Houston } ay

Mr Muhlenburg
Mr McLane } ay

Mr McKean .. ay

Mr Carmichael
Mr Henry } ay
Mr Forbes

Mr Griffin . no – not represented

Mr Burke no
Mr Sharp ay } divided.

Mr Laurens
Mr Drayton } ay

The Captain and his Agent are of opinion that Congreſs should have granted immediate redreſs — because by their direction the Veſsel and Cargo were sold, which defeated the direct purpose of the Admiralty Decree, that restitution of the whole capture should be made to the Owners. Mr. Braxton and Mr. Morris seem to be of the same opinion, the former who gave orders for seizing Portuguese Veſsels, writes that he is neither at liberty nor inclined to make good the loſs arising from depreciation of Money — the Captain is gone away highly discontented, determined to appeal to his Court — the consequences may be foreseen, the making reprisals may be inferior to the disgrace of the American honor at all foreign Courts.

Report on Capt Davis's
Memorial July 1777

(No 310) Aug.st 2d. 1779

Dear Sir

I have this day rec.d more Packets from france than what I have before mentioned to you. I ſend ſome & keep others. One Packet was ſealed & gone to Mr Laurens's before I thought of the mode of making a + to let you ſee what I have by me. my aim is that you should have a compleat ſet. S A another or at least the reading of one and I myself another for a Stand-by. Give me therefore all y.r Spare ones demand of me what you want and do this with as little risque as possible on the Road. As you have a List of all the Vouchers ſent by A.L. in Confirmation of his Letter of Defence you need not copy or ſtrive to ſpare any thing therein a duplicate being with me. but you can ſend me a List of what Letters & Papers relate to particular Points either of accusation against him, or rather Innuendo or of Frauds in D. or others. I will do the Like.

Of the Letters lately arrived I have two of those directed to A H L or F L L or J L. one of those [illegible] Resig: — also Jan 6 to R H L — Amico Berkenhout to A L with the answ.r Sep 5.77 — A L to Vergennes apr. 24.78 — Doct.r F. cannot come over. as he tells A L in a Letter of Jan.y 18.1779 Copy of which we have. —

I inclose you a Boston Paper in w.ch the Peice referred to yours is inserted I forwarded it I think ſome time ago but it is ill translated or the Printer has blundered.

A great Spirit is shewing itself in Mass: respect^g the Money. Gen. Warren & Mr S.A. tell me that both Seaport & Country Conventions were unanimous to the Number of 170, or more. I presume Mr J Adams has with him every Thing necessary to serve Arthur & confound his Slanderers. I momentarily expect Mr A.

Excuse to my Haste on this Post Day what a more proper Time shall give you from yr affect^a humb. Servt

J L

I send for yr Reading a Sample of yr Brothers friendly attention to me.

Yr favor of July 24th is safe with the Proof of the honest Ingenuity of the two Commiss^rs.

R. Iz^d complains of great Brutality of Conduct in the manner of F's refusing a Draught of his for Support which A L & J A paid.
I have a curious, long Letter of July 22-78 recd. July 27-79 not sent from Nantes till Feb. 25. ~~this~~ ~~[illegible]~~ tho it does not appear to be a copy or a Triplicate.

Hon.ble
Richard Henry Lee
Chantilly
Westmorland Co
Virginia

1779
August 12. 1779
Hon. James Lovell

(No 316)

(Deane)

A. Lee to J. Julius Pringle.

Paris, Aug. 3d. 1779.

"Dumas has been at Passy some weeks, but he is not permitted to come near me. Sayre tells me his object is to get the agency for a loan into the hands of a French house in Amsterdam, upon conditions very disadvantageous to the public. If he offers good private reasons it will embarrass the good Doctor exceedingly, because the house of Grand in whose hands it is at present, is in partnership with Deane (in which possibly the Doctor may share), and therefore it will wound those honorable and friendly feelings, which linked them together."

1.

We have seen an authentic Copy of the following Letter

30 + 31

Sir

Paris Rue St. Anne Friday Morng. April 9. 1779

"In compliance with your request in your letter of
"yesterday, to be explicit, I now tell you — that I do not recollect
"ever shewing any letter to Mr. Deane, that I thought had
"any reference to you; but I well remember reading to
"him a paragraph out of a letter which I had received from
"London, stating that intelligence of the signing of the Treaty
"with France had been transmitted there, the very night
"on which it was signed, expressed in terms which could
"not have been misunderstood & which intelligence from
"a concurrence of circumstances appeared to have been
"communicated by your Brother the Alderman: Of this
"fact I cannot suppose you ignorant. When I show'd this
"letter to Mr. Deane I meant only Jocularly to upbraid his
"secresy respecting a transaction which I understood your
"Brother had unreservedly communicated several weeks
"before; but I had no Idea of bringing censure on any person whatever"

I have the Honor to be Your Most obed.t Serv.t

Wm. Lee Esq.r

(signed) Sam.l Petrie

On Mr. W. Lee seeing a copy of the above letter, it appears to
us that he wrote on the 4th of May 1779 from Frankfort to Mr. Saml.
Petrie in Paris, in the following terms to wit — "Now Sir I do
"not intend at present to make any observations on this letter
"nor do I intend to be Jocular, but to insist seriously — First
"on your giving me explicitly your Authority for charging
"with having transmitted to London intelligence of the signing
"of the Treaty with France, the very night on which it was signed,

"and which you add I communicated unreservedly, Secondly"
"I insist on your naming the person in London to whom I com="
municated this Intelligence unreservedly of the signing of the "
treaty with France, the very night on which it was signed."
"Thirdly I desire you will precisely mention, those terms "
"which could not have been misunderstood. To these questions"
"I expect precise answers, without any Evasion or prevari="
cation otherwise you must be considered & treated not only "
"as the propagator but as the author of this Calumny. The Gent. "
"who delivers this will receive your answer which I insist "
"on your giving to him immediately that I may know what"
"farther Steps to take being determined to make the business"
very short.
I am Sr. William Lee"
"Mr. Saml. Petrie Paris"

Mr. Petrie returned the following Answer

"Sir "Paris May 10 1779"
" Your Brother has just delivered me your letter of "
"the 4th Instant & I have read it with all the contempt which "
"its uncommon impertinence deserves. I never was the "
"Calumniator of you or any other person. To the questions which "
"you insolently insist on my answering I shall make no reply"
"untill you learn to learn to write; as one Gentleman ought "
"always to write to another. When I answer questions it is al="
"ways without evasion or prevarication, but I conceive there is "
"no great difficulty in stating questions, which carry Evasion "
"& prevarication on the very face of them" I am &c.
Saml. Petrie"
"Mr. William Lee"

It appears to us from a copy of Mr. W. Lee's letter, that on the
receipt of the above letter, he wrote immediately to Mr. Petrie, insis=
ting on his meeting Mr. Lee at Lisle in Flanders the 26th of May 1779 to

give him that satisfaction that was due to his honour & Character. By a Certificate we have seen from a Gentleman Mr. Lee was at Lisle the said 26th day of May 1779, where Mr Petrie did not attend, but wrote to Mr. Lee on the 22d. of May saying that his health would not permit him to go to Lisle and adds "the moment I can bear the exercise of a Journey, I shall acquaint "you by a line under cover to your Brother & concludes thus" I have "said nothing but what I have sufficient vouchers in my poſseſsi-"on to warrant and Justify. I am &c. Saml. Petrie".
" Mr. W. Lee." —

To this letter we have seen Mr. Lee's answer from Lisle dated May 26th 1779, wherein he says "I must again insist on your "immediately producing & furnishing me with a Copy of those "vouchers which you say you have to warrant & justify what "you have said, that the original of the black aspersion of my Cha-"racter may be brot to Justice". —

Mr. Petrie on the 30th of May 1779 replies thus" However "much your coolest recollection may applaud your letter to me of the "4th instant, till I have received submiſsion or satisfaction for "the Groſs & unwarrantable language which it contains, the "door is ~~eter~~nally barr'd against discuſsions of every kind" &c "and concludes thus," the moment I can undertake the Journey, "& which I flatter myself will be soon, you may depend on hearing "again from Sir Your hble. Servt. S. Petrie".
" Mr. William Lee".

Mr. Lee seems to have waited in consequence of the above promise that he should hear of Mr. Petrie's health, till he on the 30th of June 1779 wrote from Paris as follows, after apologising for so long a delay he concludes thus," Lisle I suppose

"is to be the place of meeting." Fix your time & If I am above "
"ground I will not disappoint you." I am &c Saml. Petrie "
"Mr. Wm. Lee."

Mr. Lee answered from Frankfort July 7. 1779.

"I have had one Journey to Lisle on this business which "
"gave me the opportunity of learning that the final settlement be"
"tween us there or in its neighbourhood would be equally "
"improper perhaps more so than at Paris; in this country no "
"possible inconvenience can arise to the fortunate person, "
"therefore I fix on the City of Spa which is on the borders of "
"France for the place of meeting." Fix your own time."

"Mr. Saml. Petrie Paris." I am &c. W. Lee".

To this appointment Mr. Petrie replied on the 16th. of July 1779 in very insulting & abusive terms but concludes thus, "if alive will be at Lisle or Vallenciennes whenever you fix the time of meeting at either of those places.

I am &c. Saml. Petrie."

"Mr. Wm. Lee".

After this it appears to us that Mr. Lee got his Brother in Paris to inform Mr. Petrie that Mr. Lee would be at Vallenciennes the 2d. of August 1779, & expected Mr. Petrie would meet him there without fail. Mr. Lee came on that day & we at his request met him; when Mr. Lee got to Vallenciennes he received a letter from his Brother in Paris saying that Mr. Petrie had answered to this appointment "that barring accidents he would be at Valenciennes " "at the time appointed or in the course of the succeeding day &" "would enquire for Mr. Lee at the Post house". In consequence of this Information we continued with Mr. Lee at the Post house in

Valenciennes all the day of August the third, & after six oClock
two Gentlemen came there who said their names were Norris
& Graft, they enquired for Mr. Lee & being showed into Mr. Lee's
apartment in our presence at half past 6 oClock delivered
him the following Message which Mr. Norris had in Mr.
Petrie's handwriting & of which he gave us a Copy viz "To enquire
"for Mr. Wm. Lee at the posthouse & if there to acquaint him that
"Mr. Petrie is in town in consequence of his Brother Mr. Arthur
"Lee's letter of the 30th of last month in which he informed Mr.
"Petrie that Mr. Wm. Lee expected to see him in Valenciennes with-
"out fail." August. 3d. ½ after 5 oClock."

Here we must note that Mr. Arthur Lee's letter which Mr. Norris had in his
hand fixed precisely the 2d. of August for Mr. Petrie to be in Valen-
ciennes, why he did not come on that day as he had so firmly
engaged in his preceeding letters of the 30th. of June & 16th of July,
did not appear to us. –

Mr. Lee replied to Mr. Norris & Mr. Graft, thus,
"Mr. Lee will send a Message to Mr. Petrie" & accordingly at 7 oClock
we delivered in writing the following message from Mr. Lee
to Mr. Petrie – "Mr. Wm. Lee demands of Mr. Saml. Petrie to retract
"in the fullest & most explicit manner the Calumny on Mr. Lee's
"Character conveyed in Mr. Petrie's letter of the 9th April 1779 ad-
"dressed to Arthur Lee Esqr. and that Mr. Petrie do ask Mr. Wm.
"Lee's pardon for having used such terms & language to him as
"are contained in Mr. Petrie's letters of May 10th. 1779 & July 16th. 1779."
Mr. Lee told us that his reason for sending this message was
to take away every excuse from Mr. Petrie for continuing to
refuse to do Justice to Mr. Lee in the first instance. –
Mr. Petrie gave us the following answer in writing at ½ past

seven o'Clock — "Mr. Petrie is really at a loss to understand Mr. "
"Wm. Lee's meaning — Mr. Petrie has repeatedly told him, that he "
"has said nothing in his letter of the 9th of April last to Mr. Arthur "
"Lee, but what he has, sufficient Vouchers in his possession to "
"warrant & Justify. No peremptory demand from Mr. Lee or any "
"body else will ere make Mr. Petrie retract the assertion of a "
"fact. But all discussions on this subject, the stile of Mr. Wm. Lee's letters "
"had long ago closed. Mr. Petrie is now at Valenciennes at Mr. "
"Wm. Lee's desire, communicated to him by his Brother & waits to "
"know Mr. Lee's pleasure." Augt. 3d. 1779 1/2 past 7 o'Clock." —

When we had returned & delivered this Message to Mr. Lee as he had not then been able to our personal knowlege to obtain an order from the Commandant for horses to get out of Valenciennes, for which he had been endeavouring before he knew of Mr. Petrie's arrival that he might be in readiness & to prevent a moments unnecessary delay after Mr. Petrie came, which was owing to his having coming from Germany & not having a passport without which by a late order of the 16th of July last from Count Vergennes the Commandant was forbid to permit any one to go out of the Kingdom; We returned to Mr. Petrie at half after 9 o'Clock that Evening & delivered to him in writing the following message from Mr. Lee — "Mr. Wm. Lee had been endeavouring to get an "
"order for horses before he knew that Mr. Saml. Petrie was in Valen-"
"ciennes, which he has hitherto found impracticable to obtain for "
"want of a Passport, he is still exerting every possible means to obtain "
"such order & the moment he does so, he will have the pleasure of "
"sending Mr. Petrie a short & plain message. He hopes Mr. Petrie "
"will excuse this unavoidable delay, when he considers the great "
"distance Mr. Lee has come from another Country to have the "
"pleasure of meeting him & that the Conclusion cannot be come to "

"start on the borders of the Country ½ past 8 oClock". — When
we delivered this Meſsage to Mr. Petrie his friends that were
with him viz. Meſsrs. Norris & Graft said Mr. Lee might walk
to the Borders if he could not get horses, to which Mr. Petrie aſ-
sented as a proper observation; however at 5 minutes past
9 oClock, Mr. Petrie after consulting with his Friends gave us the following
answer in writing." "Mr. Petrie has only to refer Mr. Lee to
"his last meſsage ~~& to acquaint him~~ & to acquaint him, that
"being at present at Valenciennes at Mr. Lee's desire, he shall
" continue here till tomorrow one oClock; if he hears not farther
" from Mr. Lee before then he must conclude that he has
" nothing more to say. 5 minutes after 9 oClock P. M." — We brot
this meſsage to Mr. Lee whom we found in high spirits, as he
had during our absence obtained an Order for horses. We eat
supper & half after 10 oClock the same evening returned to
Mr. Petrie & delivered the following meſsage in writing from
Mr. Lee." Mr. Lee does not wish to take notice of Mr. Petries pre-
" sent impatience, altho' Mr. Lee has been waiting his pleasure
" for above two months, but having just now had the satisfacti-
"on of obtaining an order for horses he has the honor of infor-
" ming Mr. Petrie that he shall set out tomorrow morning at 8
" oClock & shall expect to meet Mr. Petrie about half an English mile,
" on this side the French Barrier on the road leading from Valenciennes
" to Tournay where Mr. Lee will wait till 12 oClock tomorrow if Mr.
" Petrie does not appear there before". ½ after 10 oClock P. M. Augt. 3d. 1775. —
at the same time at Mr. Lee's request we told Mr. Petrie verbally that
as he had two friends with him we intended to have the honour of
attending Mr. Lee to the field who would carry a pair of pistols,
to which Mr. Petrie replied, "it was very well." — —

To the foregoing meſsage Mr. Petrie delivered us in writing the
following answer for Mr. Lee — " Mr. Petrie is surprized that

"Mr Lee should talk of waiting for him above two months
"nor does he know how Mr Lee reckons his periods. The 20th of
"June Mr Petrie informed Mr Lee that he would be punctual
"to time, whenever he fixed a meeting & Indisposition alone
"prevented his giving that information sooner. Mr Petrie con-
"ceives the place Mr Lee proposes for the meeting tomorrow is not
"so accurately described as to prevent the possibility of a mistake.
"He must therefore beg of Mr Lee to mention the first post
"from hence which he drives to, that he may know the spot
"about half a mile on this side of the french barrier where he
"fixes the meeting. - The Carriage Mr Petrie came in has been
"so much damaged in the Journey that it is at present repai-
"ring by a Smith. This may make it impossible for him to
"be at the Spot proposed by Mr Lee so early as he fixes, but he
"will acquaint Mr Lee as soon as he can get information
"in the morning at what time he may depend on seeing him
"there. ½ past 11 o'Clock. P.M. Augt 3d 1779." - -

This message we thought with Mr Lee, showed a strong disposition in Mr Petrie to avoid coming to the question in an honorable manner, since he had about two hours before, when he thought Mr Lee could not get horses to go out of town, expressed such impatience to finish the business & gave Mr Lee only till one o'Clock the next day as the latest period, which will appear by his message at 5 minutes after 9 p.m. when he did not mention one word to us about his carriage being damaged & had assented with his Friends that Mr Lee might walk if he could not get horses, & refused to obtain horses for Mr Lee in his order which he might have done; especially as we know Mr Petrie had an order for horses & consequently might have got a chaise at the Posthouse as we did ourselves leaving several others in the Yard belonging to the posthouse when we came away. We also considered that

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—Mr. Petrie had before evaded the time of meeting; for having said
"in his letters before mentioned of the 30th of June & 16th of July that *if*
"*alive and above ground he would meet Mr. Lee at Valenciennes*
"*whenever he appointed*, & when Mr. Lee fixed the 2d. of August for the
time of meeting there, Mr. Petrie choose to come a day later well
knowing that it was impossible for Mr. Lee to have notice of this
alteration untill he got to Valenciennes & consequently had al-
ready waited there a day to meet Mr. Petrie before he came. Mr.
Lee however waited till 8 oClock A.M. Augt. the 4th expecting to
hear from Mr. Petrie in consequence of his message the night
before at ½ past 11 oClock, but not hearing from Mr. Petrie we
carried & delivered to Mr. Petrie in writing the following
message from Mr. Lee — "Mr. Lee is sorry Mr. Petrie cannot
recollect that Mr. Lee has had a Journey to Lisle about this Bu-
"siness in May last, which took him ten days in travelling
"which Mr. Petrie might have prevented but Mr. Lee does not
"intend to enter into any altercation. The Route per post from
"Valenciennes to Tournay is as well known as the route to Paris,
"& every Postillion knows the Barrier on that route between the
"French dominions & the Queens Country. Mr. Lee is now to
"inform Mr. Petrie that in pursuance of Mr. Lee's message
"½ after ten oClock last night he is now setting off from Valen-
"ciennes. 8 oClock. A.M. Augt. 4th. 1779." — at this time we saw
Mr. Norris who informed us that he had been up at 6 oClock
that morning & informed himself about the Condition of
their Carriage nothwithstanding which no message, as Mr.
Petrie had promised by his last message before mentioned,
had been sent to Mr. Lee at 8 oClock. — After leaving the above
message with Mr. Petrie in writing we returned to Mr. Lee
at the post house & about 20 minutes past 8 oClock we set out
in the road to Tournay & thus we delayed half an hour on the route.

and drove very slow we arrived at half after 10 oClock on the Borders of the Queens Country which is about half a league from the Barrier, here we staid in the road from ½ after 10 till half after twelve oClock, when Mr. Petrie not appearing & hearing nothing farther from him, we pursued the route with Mr. Lee to Tournay where we arrived at half past 2 oClock.—

We have thus given a plain state of facts, the Truth of which we will at all times maintain & from them together with several circumstances that fell under our own knowlege we must declare it as our opinion that Mr. Petrie had a great aversion & backwardness to coming into the feild, & on the contrary Mr. Lee appeared to us thro' the whole of the transaction calm & determined, if it was practicable to get Mr. Petrie into the Field to decide the business with pistols in an honorable manner

We continued with Mr. Lee at Tournay from ½ after 2 oClock yesterday till this time. Given under our hands at Tournay this 6th day of august 1779 at 2 oClock P.M.

Walter Pollard of Barbados.
William Bousch of Virginia

Affair between Wm Lee

1779.

Statement of Walter Pollard

& Wm Bouch of V

(~~[illegible]~~)

Aug. 6th 1779.

Including Copies of Letters between Wm

& S. Petrie

(No 238)

Mr. Lees chal-
lenge to S. Petrie

No. 238

~~No. 70.~~

t

Mui Señor mio. Recibi en su debido
tiempo las dos Cartas conque V.S. me
favoreció en 7 y 25 de Junio ultim
En ambas se explaya V.S. sobre
as circunstancias en que se h
ente los Negocios de la Ingl
obre el sistema que juzga
a seguirse en el dia por las
tencias que estan en guerra con
aquella Corona: tocando con es
motivo varios puntos relativos a
situacion de las Provincias Unidas
americanas.

Debo asegurar a V.S. qe

he leido con mucho gusto y apr

sabias y prudentes reflexiones q.e V.S.

en sus citadas Cartas y que haré de

ellas el uso que corresponde.

Aprovecharé tambien esta ocasion

de ofrecer a V.S. mis verdaderos de ser

virle y quedo rog.do a D.

g.de S.n Ildef.o 6 de Ag.

B.L.M. de V.

su mayor Serv.

El Conde de Floridablanca

S.or D.n Arthur Lee

Translation

I received in due time the two Letters of the 9th & 28th of last June with which your Lordship favord me; in both which you explain the situation of the affairs of England & the plan which you think the Powers at war with that Crown ought to pursue, joind with various observations relative to the situation of United American Provinces

I can assure your Lordship th
have read with great pleasure +& consideration
ost reflections contained in th
ake a proper use of them
brace this opportunity of offer
ices & of assuring you of th

Signed Count floridablanca

Lee Esqr

+ consideration, the wise & prudent reflections contained in those letters - I assure you, I shall make a proper use of them - I embrace this opportunity of ~~assuring~~ offering you, my best Services and assuring you of my prayer for ~~the~~ the preservation of your life, many years.

Count Florida Blanca

Arthur Lee Esqr

Copy / private / [illegible]

Sir

The originals, duplicates & triplicates of what you wish to have reached us I believe have safely arrived, and you may depend on a discreet use of them. It was unfortunate that we were not favored with many of them before Henry Laurens & S. Adams left this Stage of their Exertions for their Country & Virtue in general. [illegible] I shall think this Circumstance a reflection upon my Industry, a Quality which is the Object of the hatred of your Foes, you have found Americans lazy as mine, in consequence.

Some are first in that Quality except Mr. Laurens who wants no spur but the simple Knowledge of Injuries done to the Worthy to make him enter directly upon their Defence. I have urged an hundred times what you have at length quoted to me from Whitehall. But there is really no such thing as a Comtee of foreign Affairs Existing — no Secretary or Clerk further than that I presume to be one and the other. The Books & Papers of that distinguished Body lay yet on the Table of Congress, or rather are locked up in the Secretary's private Box. There was a Motion as I have before told you to choose a new Comtee, the House would not so [illegible] me. An Indifference then took place as to filling up the old one, upon presumption, I suppose, that a little Leaven would leaven the whole Lump. It would be impossible that you should have Enemies in a Country where [illegible] so to arrange Vouchers of yr Industry, Capacity & Honor as it is thought I am able to do.

The State of Mr. D. is exactly the Reverse of what his Letters have announced in France. But I will give you one or two Copies of the Scraps which have been made use of here to prove the only point on which yr Enemies finally rested, and which is now the only possible [illegible] of [illegible] to [illegible] of [illegible] many [illegible] times for the [illegible] [illegible] year.

Nothing [illegible] appears here that will prove a Breach [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of y^e [illegible] rate [illegible] from the [illegible] Quarter [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Richard but every thing [illegible] of [illegible] taken place you will not think [illegible] [illegible] continu[illegible] at R H Lee's [illegible] after you get the Copies above mentioned.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Conduct of Congress [illegible] [illegible] Plenipotentiary [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of the U.S.C. [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] Commissioners for special Purposes [illegible] the [illegible] ment of the [illegible] [illegible] Plenipotentiary for general Congress.

The List you give of Letters written to [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] of Dec^r. [illegible] letter from you [illegible] before me of Receipt [illegible] it that you may see [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a List of all we [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] all you have registered.

1778 Jan. 5. 6. 15. 31. Feb. 10. 14. 28. Apr. 12. 28
June 1. 5. 13/17 July 16. Aug. 7. 11. 21. 27. 31.
Sept. 7. 30 Oct. 5. 12/17 [illegible] Nov. 4 15/18 20
Dec. 5. 1779 Jany 5/28 15. 20 Mar. 7. Apr. 6.

[illegible] Jan. 18. Mar. 4 1779
~~[illegible] Lee~~ } [illegible]
[illegible] Sep.^t 12. 21. Oct. 13. 1778 }

adieu & prosper

The News of Wayne's Conduct and the Succeſs of Ct Destaing ought to serve us greatly in Europe. The first establishes a military Reputation in Discipline that has been supposed not to exist among us. The latter will have boundleſs Consequences.

Mr. D— is discharged from attending in Congreſs.

the view of improper Conduct of the Troops
of a Relaxing ought to serve as greatly in Europe
the first establishing a military regiment of
Discipline that has been supposed not to exist
it amongst us. The latter will have been of less
consequence.

Mr. Lee is discharged from attending
further on Congreſs.

(Copy) private

Philada Augst 6th 1779

Honble Sir

Yr favor of July 22d 1778 forwarded from Nantes by Mr Williams the 25th of February this year arrived here not till the 31st of July. I wonder the more that so very few of your Letters reach Philada in the Course of a Year, as Mr Dumas finds means to convey a Series above the number of the Alphabet in the same Term of Time, and is also in continual Correspondence with you.

It is needleſs at this Season to take up the different Parts of your long Letter, for which, however, I feel myself much obliged to you. But, I cannot omit to notice that you are totally mistaken as to "partial Objections" having been before Congreſs at the Time of their dissent to the 11th & 12th Articles. It is true that, since that time, much has been read from the Persons you suppose to have written on that subject.

You will long ere this have seen the use which has been made of my Letter to you respecting Mr Deane's Recall. I at least made a Shew of a Disposition to befriend him. I really had such a Disposition, and early on his arrival let him know what had grounded that Proceeding of Congreſs; in hope that he would not be driven by a false Jealousy which he discovered, so as to suffer [illegible] Wreck upon the Quicksands of Indiscretion. All my aim was in vain; he has been borne headlong. His publication of

Decr 5 has, in my opinion, totally ruined his Claims to any public Trust on the Ground of his Hability in Affairs. And however you may not discover the great Malignity of his Innuendoes, you cannot but see that his Peice contains downright Lies; which must be pointed out to the Public, who have not yet, ye good grounds of Conviction.

There is not a single Circumstance that is mentioned against Mr Lee which is supported, except his not having the Confidence of the french Court. The ministers must have been Angels of Light not to have [redacted] conceived Prejudices, in Consequence of the indefatigable Arts of one who tho't himself *sadled*, when a Colleague of Sense Honor & Integrity was given to him by Congreſs. The ministry were misled; but the Consequence does not follow that therefore Congreſs should destroy an able faithful Servant. What slippery Ground would this make for Ministers abroad? Will there not probably be ambitious Men always in Congreſs to trip them? — But I drop the disagreable Subject, and go to the more pleasing Office of assuring you of the Attachmt wth wch I am

Honble Sir
yr most humble Servt
J L

Honble Doctr Franklin.

In Congreſs August 6. 1779.

Reſolved, That the ſeveral Commiſsioners, Commercial Agents and others in Europe intrusted with Publick Money be directed to transmit without Delay their Accounts and Vouchers and alſo duplicate Copies of the same to the Board of Treaſury of these United States, in order for Settlement.

Reſolved That a ſuitable Perſon be appointed by Congreſs to examine the ſaid Accounts in Europe and certify his Opinion thereon previous to their being transmitted.

Sept. 29th 1779.

Congreſs proceeded to the Election of a Perſon to examine the Accounts of the ſeveral Commiſsioners Commercial Agents & others in Europe entrusted with the publick Money of these United States, and the Ballots being taken,

Mr Joshua Johnson was elected.

Extract from the Minutes

(Signed) Chas Thomson Secy

In Congreſs 6th Augst 1779

Resolved that an allowance of eleven thousand four hundred & twenty eight Livres tournois per annum be made to the several Commiſsioners of the united States in Europe for their services, besides their reasonable expences respectively

That the Salary as well as the Expences be computed from the time of their leaving their places of abode to enter on the duties their offices, and be continued three months after notice of their recall to enable them to return to their families respectively

That the several Commiſsioners, commercial Agents & others in Europe entrusted with publick Money be directed to transmit without delay their Accots & Vouchers & also triplicate Copies of the same to the Board of Treasury of these united States in order for settlement,

Resolved that a suitable Person be appointed by Congreſs to examine the said Accounts in Europe & certify his Opinion thereon previous to their being transmitted.

Extracted from the Minutes
by James Lovell

are specially transmitted, hoping that Copies will be furnished of the Gentlemen whom it concerns to have them &c when they not now transmitted thro [illegible]

In Congreſs 6th of Augt 1779

Resolved That an Allowance of eleven Thouſand four hundred & twenty eight Livres tournois per Annum, be made to the ſeveral Commiſsioners of the United States in Europe for their ſervices, besides their reasonable expences respectively.

That the Salary as well as the Expences be computed from the Time of their leaving their Places of abode to enter on the duties of their Offices, and be continued three months after notice of their Recall, to enable them to return to their families respectively.

That the ſeveral Commiſsioners, Commercial Agents & others in Europe entrusted with public Money be directed to transmit without delay their Accounts and Vouchers, and also triplicate Copies of the ſame, to the Board of Treaſury of these United States in order for Settlement.

Resolved That a ſuitable Perſon be appointed by Congreſs to examine the ſaid Accounts in Europe & certify his Opinion thereon previous to their being transmitted.

Extracted from the minutes
by James Lovell

and officially transmitted hoping that Copies will be furnished to such of the Gentlemen whom it concerns to have them and to whom they are not now transmitted through haste.

In Congreſs 6th Augst 1779

Resolved That an Allowance of eleven thousand four hundred & twenty eight Livres tournois per annum be made to the several Commiſsioners of the United States in Europe for their Services, besides their reasonable Expenses respectively:

That the said Allowance as well as the Expenses be computed from the Time of their leaving their places of abode to enter on the Duties of their Offices, and be continued three Months after Notice of their recall, to enable them to return to their families respectively.

That the several Commiſsioners, commercial Agents & others in Europe entrusted with public money be directed to transmit without delay their Accounts and Vouchers, and also triplicate Copies of the same to the Board of Treasury of the United States in Order for Settlement.

Resolved That a suitable person be appointed by Congreſs to examine the said Accounts in Europe & certify his Opinion thereon previous to their being transmitted.

Extracted from the Minutes
by James Lovell

and Officially transmitted hoping that Copies will be furnished to such of the Gentlemn whom it concerns to have them, and to whom they are not now transmitted thro haste.

(private) Philad. Aug. 6th 1779

Dear Sir

The Originals, duplicates or triplicates of all you wish to have reached us, I believe, have safely arrived, and you may depend on a diligent use of them. It was unfortunate that we were not favored with many of them before Henry Francis L. & S. Adams left this Stage of their Exertions for their Country & for Virtue in general. However, I deem this Circumstance a fresh Call upon my Industry, a Quality which is an Object of the hatred of your Foes who have found themselves long ago more in consequence. I own no first in that Quality except Mr. Laurens who wants no Spur but the simple knowledge of Injuries done to the worthy, to make him enter directly upon their Defence.

I have urged an hundred Times what you have at length quoted to me from Whitlock. But there is really

no such thing as a Com^{tee} of foreign Affairs
existing — no Secretary or Clerk further
than that I persevere to be one &
the other. The Books & Papers of
that extinguished Body lay upon
on the Table of Congreſs, or rather
are locked up in the Secretary's pri-
vate Box. There was a Motion
as I have before told you to chuse
a new Com.^{tee} the House would
not so insult me as Indifference
then took place as to filling it up
upon presumption. I suppose that
a little Leaven leaveneth the whole
Lump. It would be impossible that
you could have Enemies in a Com.^{tee}
where was one so to arrange Vouchers
of y.^{r} Industry Capacity & Honor
as it is thought I am able to do.

The State of Aff.^{s} — is exactly
the Reverse of what Letters have

announced in France. But I will give you one or two Copies of the Papers which have been made use of here to prove the only point on which yr enemies finally rested. and which is now the only possible ground of hope to them of overcoming yr Views for the public Good.

Nothing has appear'd here ~~that~~ will prove a direct Patronage and assistance of yr inveterate foe, from that Quarter which you name in one of yr Letters to Frank & Richd; but every thing short of that has taken place. you will not think I am a mere "Innuendo Man", as Dr W. calls D— , after you get the Copies above mentioned.

How do you reconcile the Conduct of Congress on June 5th respecting de Francy's Business with the Ideas of the total Extinction of joint Powers in the Commiss ences for special Purposes after the appointment of the Minister Pleni-potentiary for general Concerns?

The List you give of Letters written on & before the 5th of Dec.r last, differing from one now before me, of Receipts, I give it that you may see you have not sent a List of all ~~you~~ we have rec.d? nor have we rec.d all you have registered.

1778 Jan.y 5 6. 15. 31
Feb. 10 15. 28
Apr 1. 2. 4. 8.
June 1. 5. 15/17
July. 16.
Aug. 7. 11. 21. 27. 31.
Sep.r 9. 30
Oct.r 5 12 Nov. 7
Nov. 4 15/18 20
Dec 5.
1779 Jan. 5/28 15. 20
Mar 7
Apr. 6

Adieu & prosper

Izard Jan 18
Mar 4.

Dr Sr St Amand 8th August 1779

I am favoured with your two Letters of 1st & 4th instant. The account you give of the proceedings respecting Mr Ford, is very alarming. His character has always appeared to me the very reverse of what his enemies have drawn it. His conduct in America has, I hope, been consistent with his professions here; if so, this attack may prove advantageous not only to himself, but to his Country; If he can refute the charges that have been brought against him, the object of his Accusers will plainly appear. It will give me infinite pleasure if the News of Prevosts defeat should be confirmed. Should it prove true there must have been some mistake in the date. It could not have happened on th 14th May, or the persons who were at Savanna must have known of it on the 21st of the same Month, & on the 2d & 5th June. If the date of the action has been mistaken all may yet be well. I am sure that part of the Gazette account, which mentions the inhabitants of Chas. Town offering to capitulate on condition of their being allowed to remain Neuter, is false; other parts may likewise be so too. You will be so good as to give me the earliest notice of anything interesting which arrives from that quarter. The Report of the Committee of 15th April is most shocking. We are yet to learn whether it has been agreed to. If it is, those Members who are friends to their ountry, should enter a solemn Protest gainst it, with their reasons, & send them to the Legislatures of every State. —

I was surprized on Monday last to see your Brother here. He told me you had informed him of my being here, & as he was in this part of the World looking out for a proper place to leave his family when he went to America, he came a little out of his way to see me. He did not stay with me above two, or three hours.

My Breast, which was very troublesome to me a few days ago, is now much better. Should it grow worse again, I shall follow your advice. I am Dr Sr with great regard Your friend &c

Ra. Izard.

(Copy)

I the underwritten do hereby certify to whom
it may concern, that Mess.rs Wharton & Bancroft
Merchants,
Citizens of the United States of America, at present in
France, have at my request examined with care
the Accounts of Mr. Ross with the said States; &
knowing them to be men of integrity, skilled in such
affairs, & being therefore perfectly satisfied with
the report they have made as above, do recom
mend it to the Committee of Commerce to
make immediate provision for the pay
ment of the ballance which appears due to
him on the 1. July 79. And in case of my
receiving funds from them for that purpose
I will discharge the same in France, in com
pliance with an order of Congress dated 11th Aug.
1778. Given at Passy near Paris this 8th day
of Aug.t 1779 signed B. Franklin
Minister Plenipotentiary
from the United States at
the Court of France

My dear brother —— Chantilly in Virga. Augt. 12. 1779

Mr. Ford has arrived and delivered safely all his dispatches for me and for Congress — An Express now waits to carry the latter to Philadelphia — I believe, but am not certain that the new Minister and Mr. Adams are arrived — If Congress do not publish your vindication and censure Deane I will do the former for them, and the latter will sufficiently flow from every honest man in the world — I mean to keep back such Vouchers as the publication of might affect friendly Courts — there is enough without these — I have persuaded Mr. Ford to go directly to Williamsburg and demand a public hearing before the Governor & Council where he says he can fully vindicate himself from the foul aspersions against him — I hope he will — I wish our brother William had sent me a copy of his vindication, I shall not get it from Congress witht. much trouble — Two posts ago I wrote Mr. Lovel to commence yr. suit against Deane, and I have left it to your Whig friends in Congress whether to present your resignation or not.

I am extremely indisposed at present, so, with my love to my brother his Lady & family, & my boys. I am yours sincerely

Richard Henry Lee

Honorable Arthur Lee
at
Paris

Dear Sir. Menokin August the 12th 1779

A few days ago Mr. Ford, late Secretary to Dr. Lee, arrived at my house in 7 weeks from France with many Letters for Congress and one packet for the Governor of Virginia which accompanies this. Mr. Ford came to my house with a design to proceed to Congress with the dispatches for that body. They had not heard in France when Mr. Ford came away of the charges that have been exhibited against him. I have advised him to discontinue his journey to Congress, leaving the transmission of these packets to me, and repair immediately to Williamsburg, there to request of the Governor and Council a full hearing on the subject of the charge against him, that his innocence may be vindicated in the fullest manner before the most respectable Tribunal. That Mr. Ford has enemies is unquestionable, and that these will endeavor to subvert him and suppress truth and fair enquiry by infusing prejudices, and by various other acts is equally certain. But, whilst the protection of innocence is, at least, as considerable a duty as the punishment of guilt, the respectable Tribunal to which he means to appeal will protect him in displaying the means necessary for his defence. I have the pleasure to inform you that my two brothers have sent to Congress the most full and complete vindication of themselves accompanied with

conclusive vouchers, against Mr. Silas Deanes libel published on
the fifth day of December last — Dr. Lees defence has been received by
Congreſs two or three weeks ago. Mr. Wm Lees is now on its way —
Hear if you pleaſe [illegible] a genuine whig in Congreſs [illegible] on
the subject of Dr. Lees vindication &c. I did not return from the [illegible]
till 1 oclock, hard duty for an infirm man. I then heard the vindica-
tion read, but there is a man who can never read distinctly & [illegible]
when he does not like the subject — long debates, whether the vouchers
should be read, at length carried in the affirmative. I received
much satisfaction, but not so with every body. one seemed to be on
a gridiron, another in purgatory, another attempting to take notes
but the subject was painful, he sickened and threw down his pen
one looked to be in a situation in which he ought long since to have been
— suspended — from his eternal versatility I suspect he will be
a convert. I feel myself happy in finding I have taken the honest
side and that I may therefore congratulate with you and families and
your friends. I should have crept into an Auger hole had it appeared
that I had (altho mistakenly) been an advocate for a rogue — little
as I have left of worldly wealth, I would give 500 guineas for
Arthur Lees company tonight in this room — he should not leave
Philadelphia until he had pointed out the way for obtaining
justice to his injured country; his country would not part with
him until they had done him honor — An honest man is the noblest
work of god. If Congreſs now suffer Mr. Deane to leave the American
shore before he shall have settled his accounts, or shall have given
good and sufficient security to account for all the public money
which has paſsed thro his hands, we shall have to account for
our conduct to the people at large. I wait to see whether

L

Congress mean to publish the defence soon, if they do not, I understand it will — It is indeed unhappy for my brother, that some very important documents for the present must not be published, and whilst he is [illegible] his country should be injured by the promulgation of State secrets, which would give displeasure to foreign courts, enough however can safely be given to the public, to shew his innocence and the wickedness of his Adversaries — You sir will be concerned for the cause of philosophy in one Man — Franklin —

If parts allure thee, think how Bacon shined
The wisest ~~greatest~~ meanest of mankind — I turn with horror from this most degrading view of human nature — To a more pleasing contemplation of the good news that Mr. John Adams verbally sent word he is bringing to Congress — This honest Whig is either arrived, or near it, in the same frigate that brings the Chevalier de la Luzerne Minister Plenipo. from France to Congress, who takes the place of Mons.r Gerard, the latter being recalled — It is supposed for his factious support of Deane here — I have some reason to suppose the good news Mr. Adams brings, is the acceptance of Spain to our union — The preliminaries being signed between the Emperor & Prussia, it is not improbable that these Courts will presently acknowledge our independency — I rejoice that the States of Holland have at last resolved to protect their Trade from the British search, and it is said the Northern Courts are coming to the same point — It is certain that they begin in England seriously to debate about treating with us as independent Sovereign States — They are in great distress & confusion — God grant these may increase, until they learn to substitute reason justice & humanity for madness, pride, & cruelty —

I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the
proposed letter to the [illegible] of R. H. Lee [illegible] the [illegible] of
[illegible] — for the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ought [illegible] upon the
malignant, displaying a most wicked plot to injure an honest man
It was quashed by the Gentleman accused insisting on being
brought face to face with his Accuser — Who [illegible] by [illegible] [illegible]
declined it — D[illegible] [illegible] lives in the house with [illegible] [illegible]
He is undoubtedly a very bad man — Be so kind Sir as present
my compliments to Mr. Page & Col. Digges — I should have wrote
to them, but I am very much indisposed — [illegible] [illegible] to
procure the inclosed papers concerning Monsieur [illegible] [illegible]
for [illegible] Should any Soldiers be procured by our [illegible]
[illegible] of the [illegible] into service [illegible], I am at a loss what to
do with the men, how to get them provided for the Act having
made no provision directing only that they shall be delivered to the
Country [illegible]. I am with the sincerest esteem and
regard, dear Sir your affectionate friend

Richard Henry Lee

Dear Sir,

Chantilly August 13. 1779

The packets that will be delivered you herewith are just put into my hands from France — I have hired an express upon the best terms I possibly could to carry them to Philadelphia — He is a sober, honest, careful Man, who will I am sure take the greatest care of the dispatches. I have agreed that he shall receive from you, as Chairman of the Committee of Foreign affairs, one hundred pounds lawful, besides his expences to and from Philadelphia — He is a very frugal person and will moderate his expences by all possible means. 'Tis 250 miles from hence to Philadelphia, and will take 12 or 14 days to go & return — I do not think his demand is unreasonable & I could engage no other —

I am dear Sir your obliged & obedient Servant

Richard Henry Lee

August 14.th — Paris. — A letter from A. Lee to Dr. Franklin, desiring him to apply to the French Court, to ascertain if it was deemed a suitable time for him to make overtures for an arrangement with Spain. He considers this application as proper to be made by Dr F. in his capacity of Mins. Plenipotentiary.

Dear Sir, Amsterdam 16 August 1779

I have your favour of the 3d. Since my last to you I have been aſsured that Mr. Temple is in London. I could learn nothing of the Americans who seemed to be most intimate with him except that they believe what he means to do in England, he is authorised, at least that he has the approbation of Congreſs. I am convinced that the occasion of his coming to Europe and views are of a public nature; and I am of opinion with you that his endeavours will probably not redound much to his honour or our advantage, whatever may be his intentions — He expreſsed in his conversations with me much regard for you, but the *old man* at Paſsy seemed to be ~~his~~ with him ~~the~~ Oracle. We have had more favourable reports concerning Carolina than that you wrote me, and from different quarters — An American lately arrived from St. Eustatia brings the following extract of a Letter from a Gentleman at Edenton N. Carolina to his friend in St. Eustatia dated 4 June — "I this moment heard of Capt. Sinclair's sailing for your port

and cannot let slip the oppy of giving you the news;
it is as follows, Charles-Town has been severely
attacked by the British troops, who have been as
severely repulsed. They lost six hundred and fifty men
killed on the field, and retreated with great precipitation 12 miles in the night- Genl Williamson & Lincoln
were just before them, so that it is xpected they
will be at least burgoyned." Mr Craig an American
Gentleman ~~at R~~ writes to a friend here as follows.
Rotterdam August 11th "A virginia Pilot boat
arrived here a few days ago, which left
Cambridge in Maryland 29th June. By her a
Philadelphia paper is come, confirming the
defeat of the British army near Chas Town
on 11 May. A Mr Davidson an acquaintance
of the Gentleman with me is come a Passenger
in her. He says that on the 6th June an
express passed thro' Maryland with an account
of the surrender of the main body which on
the 11th had made good their retreat some
distance into the Country - the loss of the
Americans in the lines did not exceed 40
Pulaski's cavalry were in the Town on
the attack, and in the retreat of the
British made 1010 prisoners - the British
left 653 dead on the field - Hand bills
were received in Cambridge from Philadelphia

with the particulars of the success, which Mr. Davidson perused!! Besides the above, there are some other reports to the same purpose. There seems to be much consistency in all of them. Nor can I think it can be doubted ~~untrue~~, unless one can suppose it forged pretty far southward, and by public authority. My mind is much elated, and I expect, with the utmost impatience a full and particular account of the matter regularly confirmed — Mr. Stockton is in ~~at~~ the Texel on board the armed Brig Genl. Arnold, which is now watching a favourable opportunity to escape a 50 gun ship, and several other vessels that are cruising off the Texel. Mr. Pollard arrived here two ~~do~~ or three days ago, he has given me the account of the affair between your Brother & Petrie; it has afforded me much pleasure, as it reflects much honour on your Brother; and Mr. Petrie's behaviour must serve to discredit and efface the imputations he gave rise to against your Brother, ~~an~~ and perhaps be of service in general by shewing of what stamp Mr. Deanes friends in Europe are, when one of them whom he tells the public is a Gentleman of ~~character and~~ consequence and honour, has behaved, so inconsistently with that character. Mr. Pollard told ~~tells~~ me he particy remarked your Brothers ~~and~~ countenance and behaviour throughout the affair, and said that he appeared to him to behave with much spirit and calmness, as much as he thought it possible for any man to shew, and that he is perfectly convinced that your Brother would have been very glad to have met Petrie on the field, and that it was entirely the fault of the latter that this did not happen — In spite of my impatience to sail for America I have been detained by the difficulty of procuring a passage to St. Eustatia – ~~I would have gon~~ The Merchants & Owners of vessels make great scruples to take strangers, as they say it has occasioned searches and other embarassments. Some of the most reputable merchants have applied in my behalf, and I have now a prospect of going in 10 days, and I beg to have any additional commands that may occur to you. – I should have gone in one of the American vessels here, but they are too strictly watched; we have heard of the capture of two of the four that have sailed, and there are several cruisers now off the Texel – I am informed by the Gentleman from Eustatia, that opport.s by very fine sailing vessel offer there every week for different parts of the Continent – Mr. P—l—d has made grateful mention to me of the unmerited and generous service you render'd him –

In hopes of hearing from you as soon and often as convenient I remain

Dear Sir
With great Esteem
Affy sincerely
J. Pringle

Pray is it the House of De Neufville that Mr. Sayre says Dumas is trying to have entrusted with the management of the Loan; because if it is I may perhaps know they terms they offer — The present managers lay under strong imputation of being favourers of G. Britain

(No 311) Augt 16. 1779 Copy

To the Honble the Delegates of the United States of North America in general Congreſs aſsembled. The Memorial of Silas Deane, late one of their Commiſsioners at the Court of Versailles, and their Political and Commercial Agent, (No 311)

Respectfully sheweth

That he engaged to serve these States as their Political and Commercial Agent in January 1776, and soon after embarked for Europe.

That on his arrival in France he diligently apply'd himself to render these States every service in his power, as well in the Political as in the Commercial line.

That previous to the arrival of the Honble. Dr. Franklin in the Month of November following, with a Commiſsion appointing him one of your Commiſsioners at the Court of Versailles, your Memorialist had contracted for large supplies for these States, and had begun to ship off the same for this Continent, which with the Political concerns entrusted to his care, engroſsed the whole of his time, and the utmost of his attention, meeting with difficulties & embarraſsments which the situation of affairs in France at that time threw daily in his way.

That on the arrival of Dr. Franklin many circumstances conspired to increase the difficulties in the way of completing of those Contracts which lay wholly in your Memorialist, in addition to which, the executive part of the busineſs of the Commiſsioners in contracting for, and purchasing Clothing and other Stores for the Armies of these States, the soliciting for supplies and aſsistance, and the procuring of Ships to transport the same to these States, fell, in a manner wholly on him, and the obstacles he met with, and the embarraſsments he found himself constantly under, were such, that nothing but the hopes of procuring for his Country the most important and seasonable supplies, animated him to persevere amid the many difficulties which surrounded him.

That his situation and conduct at the time having been already laid before Congreſs, need not be particularized at this time; it is sufficient to say, that on the 16th of March 1778 when all the Stores your Memorialist first contracted for, were shipped, as were those purchased afterwards by himself and the Commiſsioners his then Colleagues; and when the Treaties of Alliance and Commerce being happily completed, your Commiſsioners and Agents found themselves for the first time at liberty to transact their affairs openly, and with the protection of the Court, and when your Memorialist found himself in a situation to complete

the

the shipping off the Stores still on hand, and to close the Accounts of the several purchases made, and of the expences thereon, he received the Order of Congreſs of the 8th of December 1777 for his immediate return to America. Though your Memorialist has at all times paid the most ready and implicit obedience to the Orders of Congreſs, yet situated as he then was, and as the affairs of the Commiſsioners and his own were; he then thought, and is still of opinion that his immediate return might have been dispensed with, until the Accounts of the Commiſsioners, as well as of his own transactions should be adjusted and closed, had it not been for an object of the last importance to these States, which then presented itself, to obtain which he then and still considers himself justified in neglecting every other consideration.

Your Memorialist therefore, knowing that it was impoſsible without delaying his return for many Months, to call in, and close Accounts open with Persons who had been employed in different Ports in France and Holland by the Commiſsioners, in procuring the Stores, and that to attempt to do it would expose his intention of returning, which it was neceſsary to be kept secret, to effect the other purpose (already explained to Congreſs) he resolved on immediate compliance with the Order received, and left Paris on the 30th of March taking with him an Account from the Banker of all the Monies received and paid out on Account of, and by order of the Commiſsioners, in order that Congreſs might have an authentic and exact state of their funds in France, which general Account, with a particular explanation thereof, he laid before Congreſs immediately after his return, and to which no exceptions have ever been taken that have come to his knowledge.

On the arrival of your Memorialist on the 10th of July in this River, and on the 12th in this City, he without delay applied to Congreſs on the subject of his return; his repeated applications to Congreſs and the answers he has received are before them and need not be recited here. Congreſs must also be sensible of the delays he has met with, and have some idea of what he has suffered thereby. Your Memorialist from his first arrival in America to this time, having repeatedly sollicited Congreſs, as well in Person as by his Letters and Petitions that they would inform him if exceptions had been taken, or charges made against any part of his conduct, and that he might be heard thereon, if there were; he has been the more urgent & preſsing on this subject, knowing that his conduct had been misrepresented by his Enemies whom he left at Paris and at Nantes, and on Account of the many false and abusive publications in the Newspapers since his return, as his Letters and Petitions on this subject are still before Congreſs, your Memorialist needs not to repeat them, or the substance of them at this time

but

but begs leave to observe that from the Resolutions of Congreſs of the 6th Instant by which he is discharged from any further attendance on Congreſs, and by which, the several Commiſsioners, Commercial Agents, and others in Europe entrusted with Public Money be directed to transmit without delay their Accounts and Vouchers, and also triplicate copies of the same to the Board of Treasury of these United States in order for settlement; he is obliged to conclude that Congreſs are satisfied with his conduct whilst their Political and Commercial Agent and Commiſsioner, and that they do approve thereof so far as the same has come to their knowledge; and that there are no charges against him before Congreſs; and that it is the Resolution of Congreſs to have all the Accounts of their Commiſsioners and Agents settled without delay; this Resolution which your Memorialist petitioned for in October last, as by his Letter of that date still before Congreſs will appear, obliges him without further loſs of time to return to France; previous to which, he requests the attention of Congreſs to his situation in a few particulars.

First, that it was his immediate compliance with the orders of Congreſs, and to render these States an important service which occasioned him to leave France without first settling his Accounts and finally closing every transaction he had been concerned in, either as the Political and Commercial Agent, or as one of the Commiſsioners of Congreſs.

Secondly, that though he is interested in the final settlement of these Accounts, Congreſs is no leſs so, and that he cannot return to France and attend the settlement of those Accounts and for their final approbation and being paſsed at the Treasury Board here without a very great expence both of time and Money, for which no provision is made by the said Resolutions of Congreſs.

Thirdly, that the Person to be appointed by Congreſs to examine the said Accounts in Europe and certify his opinion thereon previous to their being transmitted is not by said Resolution impowered in case he shall find a balance due to either of your Agents or Commiſsioners to order the same or any part thereof to be paid, and that your Memorialist well knowing that a considerable balance is, and will be found due to him, which considering the accidents of War he must remain long deprived of, if previous to its being paid, his Accounts though examined and approved of in France must be transmitted for the final examination and approbation of the Treasury Board. That at the same time that he has no objection to that mode of proceeding being at all times desirous to prevent any poſsibility of error in the final settlement, and that Congreſs may have the most clear and ample satisfaction as to every part of his conduct, he can but inform Congreſs that

his

(No 3) Silas Deane's Memorial to Congreſs Aug. 16th 79

his private fortune which has suffered greatly by his absence and the depreciation of Money, must be totally ruined, if obliged to wait so long a space of time for the balance due to him; on which your Memorialist most respectfully intreats of Congreſs that the circumstances of his return to America, and his situation since, as well as the neceſsity of his return to France without loſs of time, may be considered by them, and that such provision may be made therefor as shall appear just; and that the Person to be appointed to examine his Accounts in Europe and to certify his opinion thereon, may be empowered and directed to order him the payment of the Balance which shall be found in your Memorialists' favor, he giving security to be accountable therefor, in case that on the final examination of his Accounts by the Board of Treasury there shall be found any mistake or erroneous charge therein. Your Memorialist flatters himself that his request will appear reasonable and just in the Eyes of Congreſs, and that they will grant him the prayer of his Memorial, and he, as in duty bound, shall ever pray for their and his Countrys' glory and happineſs.

(signed) Silas Deane

Philadelphia August 16th 1779.

(No 311)

Copy of Mr Deane's
Memorial to Congreſs
16 Augt 1779.

Committed to
Mr Houston
Mr Laurens
Mr Smith.

1780.5

Pendleton &

John Adams

~~7704~~

Aug. 17th 1779

Dear Sir

Your Favor of the 7th is in my Hand. I am surprised that you had not then heard of the Arrival of Ford on the 1st at Metompkin. Mr Adams was at Braintree on the 3d and Count Luzerne in Boston. I have no Dispatches from either; but I have a Letter from Nantes of May 25th Extract of which you will see in the Paper of Tomorrow, as well as the Continuation of Rowland's Communications, of Part of what you think ought to be published.

You talk of your having a Sort of Right to a Copy of the Papers sent by Arthur, you little know of the droll motion made by your merry Friend, to stigmatize Ar. for having enclosed to an Individual what he desired might be communicated to a secret Commtee of Congress to prevent the ~~palam~~ Consequences of a palam Examination of the Vouchers. But, as on the one hand I contended for an open reading of the whole that was sent, I most easily

I will attend to yr Reqst about Beaumarchais's charge. I have no reasons, now, in favr of giving the Resig: but rather the opposite. neither perhaps shall I consult more than Laur. Ships. & Merch.

convinced the House that every Officer in their Service has a Right to communicate ſuch Papers as these in question to any Individual Friend, on whose Judgment he chuses to depend either to present or burn Resignations Memorials and Defenses, these being personal Concerns; and I mentioned having by me ſome Things thus inclosed upon which I ſhould act my ſovereign Pleasure. I thought this neceſsary, that I may act with a good Grace, if I ſhould ſee cause to give in any of the Papers now in my Trunk at a Time when it will not be poſsible to prove a late Arrival. The Motion was withdrawn Inch by In I pledging myſelf to prove that Congreſs never had an official Pap kept from them by the mode mentioned in the Motion vizt covering Dispatches of a Minister to an Individual. I mean I pledged my so far as concerns Ar Lee Esqr

your Brother was totally mistaken as
to D's Credit here. But I wait with
impatience to know more by M Adams
~~who has not sent me a Line or a Letter~~
~~from Boston. Indeed he was not there~~
~~having landed at Braintree~~. ~~I have~~
~~a Letter from~~. Our Penobscot Expe-
dition is not yet well over. Collie
may do great hurt there: I hav
a few Lines from Mr S A he is a
you think greatly engaged in Town
and Body Meetings & in the general
Assembly. They have great Expec
tation of mending the Currency by vigo
rous Taxation & Loan. But I look
for Credit to the poor eastern States
mainly from a successful Expedition
though even in that Case W. H. D.
will be against them: he spouted
an invidious motion about their
sending their Fleet to relieve
S Carol: & Georgia. Observe
the cursed Rascality of sending
to New York as well as to Boston
the Paca-drayton Effort. though in
the former case there is a super-
erogatory Lie of its being a Com^tee.
Information. ____

I find that Paper is stolen from me. It wa
either Pokipsie or Fishkill you can get it by
Enquiring of y^r Printer ____ I have re-
covered it. —

171

Augt 17. 1779

The Party are provoked beyond measure at seeing the Vouchers sent out out by Rowland; but I tell them, "they are free for any Member who chuses to use them, only it is at his Peril if he does not guard against offending France Spain or Prussia or exposing *honest Whigs* to Danger. The affair of Ber. kenbost can be put in a Light to damn D.s Virulence exerted under pretended Care of the public Safety. Simple Views must be first given of the State of Facts and at the Close a Freedom in Inferences Reflections & Brands may be taken. Indeed this Part may be performed in the different States upon an Exhibition of Vouchers here. It will have more effect by springing from different Quarters. The main point will be to establish the Propriety of supporting Merit in Republics against Envy & Falsehood, rather than suffering it to be crushed from a foolish Idea of Convenience to the Public. The contrary would be to induce eventually a *maximum* to avoid a present *quid detrimenti*. I wish yr Health may suffer you to attend to this. Pieces should be *short* to be *generally* read.

J L

Dear Sir, Amsterdam Aug. 19. 1779

A few days ago a Mr. Hall arrived here with a young man a son of Mr. Carter Brackston from Virginia. They left it ~~about~~ the 13th. June and have come by way of St. Eustatia. Hall was a Clergyman and Master of a school in Virginia, and was at the College of Philadelphia at the same time with me. He comes ~~[illegible]~~ to Europe as Tutor and Governor to young Brackston, and has it at his discretion to ~~go~~ carry him to any place in Europe he may judge most proper for his improvement. Hall informs me that there was an election for a Governor in Virginia about 9th. June and that Mr. Jefferson was chosen in preference to Col. Nelson and Mr. Page. That the election for Delegates to Congreſs was to take place soon after. He says it was believed that neither of your

Brother were likely to be chosen again for Congreſs, ~~though he believ~~ but made no doubt they would be for the aſsembly as they were very popular and much esteemed in their own Country. He says their contest with Mr. Carter Brackston has been of much diservice to them, as the latter had fully vindicated himself against all their accusations. It occur'd to me to ask him to what party the new Governor inclined, he answerd, that Mr. Jefferson was rather cautious in embarking openly- in favour of either, but he seem'd to follow the sentiments and conduct of Mr. Henry who was much attach'd to your Brothers, and that Mr. Nelson also favour'd them. That he believ'd that this latter would be chosen one of the Delegates. Mr. Jefferson, he says, was chosen chiefly by the suffrages of the back counties that the votes and interest of the lower counties was divided between Mr.

Nelson and Mr. Page, which prevented Mr. Nelson from being elected - He has acquainted me that Deane was honourably acquitted by Congreſs of every charge and imputation just before they left America - As I am unacquainted with ~~your~~ the people of your State, I could not ~~ask~~ ~~him~~ interrogate him concerning the opinions of ~~the~~ particular individuals of the chief influence there; though if I did, I suppose he would give me a partial account, as he seems much tinctured with Toryism and rather a Dependant of Mr. Carter Brackston. However if ~~any~~ you would wish to make any enquiries of him, let me know them, and I shall get his answer - The Captain of the veſsel in which I have taken paſsage, tells me that he will go for St. Eustatia in 10 or 12 days at furthest.

No news since my last here conc.g our affairs in Carolina -

I have the honour to remain

Dear Sir
With much Esteem
Your's sincerely
J. J. P—

Continue to addreſs your letters to the care of Meſs.rs DeNeufville & Son who will send any to me that may arrive ~~at Ams~~ if I ~~leave~~ should have left this place

Pringle
Trord - Spier

A Monsieur
Monsieur Lee
hotel d'Espagne
Rüe de Guinegaud
à Paris

C. Braxton

19 Aug. 79

Count Sarsfield

mr De Sarsfield fait bien des
Complimens a Monsieur lee, et le
prie de lui faire savoir ou il loge
a present en adressant sa reponse
chez mr De Malesherbes.

Rennes 19 aout 1779

Could not you by the means of
that man who got you many
memoirs get for me those relative
to the contestation between
Mad:e la vicomtesse de Choiseul &
the duke of Lorges upon their

respective claims to the
Barony of Quinton? I will
be extremely obliged to you
if you can Get them for me

(381) Aug 20 1779

I John Daniel Schweighauser Merchant of the City of Nants in France do hereby Certifie to all whom it may concern that when the Honorable William Lee appointed me commercial Agent for the secret Comittee of Congreſs he did not then nor at any time before or afterwards propose stipulate or demand to receive for himself directly or indirectly any Part or Share of such Commiſsions as I might Charge or Receive for doing the Busineſs of said Committee and I do further Certify that neither the said William Lee nor any Person for him has ever heretofore Received or is hereafter to receive from me or on my Account any Reward Gratuity or Commiſsion whatsoever in Consequence of his having appointed me Commercial Agent In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal at Nants in France this twentieth day of August 1779

J. Dl. Schweighauser

Witneſs
Jacob Schweighauser
Benedict. Schondorff

J.D. Schweighauser's Certificate
of Aug. 20th 1779

(No 405)

1779
Schweighauser

No. 405

Dear Brother/ Paris Aug. 21st 1779

I wrote the Committee on the 10th an account of the combind fleet in number 66 of the line being off Ushant, makg for the british Channel on the 7th. Most unfortunately adverse winds seem still to have prevented it from getting up the Channel, so that we have not yet heard, nor is it beleivd that the troops are embarkd for invading England. This makes it very late in the season for such an attempt. But it is understood here as a thing determind on at all hazards. The Marquis de la Fayette has a command in it.

The Enemy's fleets from the Baltic the Mediterranean & the Islands have all got in safe, so that there remains only their E. India fleet without. But what appears most extraordinary is, that their Mediterranean fleet which put into Lisbon has come from thence into port, & the combind fleet which was so long ago in the chops of the Channel, is not heard off.

It is impossible to describe to you the disagreeableness of my situation here. I have seen the report of the 16th of April, the aim of which is obvious, & inclines me to think that my friends at Passy were right, when they gave out, long since, that I was displaced. The incertainty however makes it extremely difficult & perplexing how to act. If I were to do nothing with regard to Spain, I might be accused of negligence, if I begin to act & should be displaced it will be to no purpose. I have thought it how-

however most prudent to wait here, the ultimate orders of Congreſs, either to repair to Madrid, or return. Mr Izard & my Brother have no doubt of their being displaced, & the latter is acting accordingly.

I do not at all like the proceeding with regard to Mr Ford, because I am persuaded it is unjust. I take it to be a vindictive persecution of him by the 179, 6, XVIII, & 454, 6, II, 77, 6, XXXIX; with whom he has told me, he was at variance & whom I believe to be bad men. But he will by this time I expect be with you to answer for himself.

There is no chance of any Power declard. for the English. But I expect those of the North will this winter endeavor to mediate a general peace. Why coud not Congreſs order all the Paper-money to be brought in within 3 months under penalty (that what is withheld shall not be valid after that period) & return half the quantity in a new Emiſsion. The value augmenting in proportion to the diminution, & perhaps more, becau there woud be leſs danger of Counterfeits, Individuals wd receive no injury, & the cause of paper discredit woud be removed.

We have heard of the total defeat of the Invaders of Carolina, which we much hope is true. Your Boys are well. My love to London & respects to the Adams's.

Adieu

The Hon.ble =
R. H. Lee Esqr.

Congreſs

A Lee

21 Augst

22 Aug 79

Dear Sir

[redacted]

I have received your favor of the 14 Instant
atly relieved me of my uneasiness which the fear of the
Consequences ~~which~~ your Brothers Affair might have brought on
gave me. the whole of this business, is Astonishing, I told you I had
written twice to W. the last Letter was carried by his Relation
Bussie on whose return to Paris I expected an Answer instead of
which I find that W. imagined I was in America ~~when~~ I
immediately determined to write to him to know who had given
him that Information, but was told that his Brothers Affairs had
called him to Ireland. — you may depend on it I will write to
Bridgen & beg him to make the necessary Inquiries — I will do all
I can to search this business to the Bottom.

When you receive an account of the State
of Public & private Affairs, you will certainly receive the Opinion
of your friends, on them & on the part you ought to take for the
public & for yourself. at present it is probable ~~that the~~ it seems to you
that the Cause of one & the other require your Immediate Departure

and I suppose you are prepared for it, there is but one thing that occurs to me at present [redacted] to hint to you as to the manner of doing it — I always wished that you had as soon as you ceased to act here, taken your formal leave [redacted]. this however I would do on my Departure — I have reasons to think it would be a proper Step. it will be right in you doing it & if it is not well received & returned, it will put others much in the wrong

— We talk here much of Peace, have we any foundations for it

I have been much out of order with a Jaundice & am now recovering fast. — Pay my Respects to Mr & Mrs Grand. & ~~your~~ to your Nephew I am obliged to you for the Notice you take of mine.

I am Dear Sir
Yours most Sincerely
J. Clement

Augst. 22. 1779.

pray enquire of Mr Grand whether he has any Letters for me & give him my direction

Philadelphia, 23d aug^t 1779.

My Dear Sir

It gives me pleasure to find by your favor of the 8th ins^t that you have got the better of your indisposition. & I hope shortly to have the additional satisfaction of being informed that your health is perfectly restored.

The Confederacy is still waiting for her freight, I fancy a late arrival at Boston will hasten her departure.

A long Political letter has been received from Mr Adams in which he gives a high Character of his companion from France. I hope this Gent^n will receive such impressions in the Country where he first landed as will sufficiently Guard him against the pernicious Air of Philad^a. from the character given of him there is no room to apprehend much danger of his being drawn into party by the insidious arts of base designing men, but still it may not be amiss to fortify him against any such attempts. — The arrival of Mr Adams may make a change in some Political plans, I wish he w^d come this way but I do not understand he has any such intention ———

The reading of Dr Lee's vindication &c afforded me high entertainment, Envy, Malice, and every vindictive passion that disappointed malevolence would inspire appeared on various countenances round the Room — Fidler head shook Swivel Eye, rattled & turnd pale, the Chair, changed colour at every sentence, some others forced a sneer endeavouring to conceal their shagreen & confusion, this you may well suppose afforded me no small degree of enjoyment

The Base Scot has tarried a fortnight beyond the time he he some time ago set for his departure, he has met with something of late that has lowered him exceedingly but what it is I know not, perhaps it may be the Oath you mention.

What can be become of Ford its now ten days since a fellow Paſsenger of his paſsed through this City who inform. that Ford had dispatches for Congreſs, but nothing further has been heard of him, it is hinted by some that he will not be permitted to paſs this way, but those are not remarkable for their Friendship for his late employer. —

I shall not be under the least concern for the fishery if a proper person can be agreed on to negotiate the buſineſs ~~but~~, that still remains a matter of uncertainty

The resignation of Dr Lee at this time wd certainly be injurious, tho I hope when he has compleated the buſineſs that I expect he is now engaged in he will ask leave to come to America, but in my Opinion it will be best not to resign, the thought of his coming to this Country wd make some of the Villains tremble, but if he resigns it will be said he has no intention of coming here, and many injurious stories will be circulated that may make an impreſsion that may give him or his friends some trouble to remove — The few select Friend who you have Honoured with your confidence have considered the subject submitted to them their Opinion, will be given you by Mr L— or Mr L—l who no doubt will write you fully on the subject. —

It is uncertain when I shall take my leave of this place but I believe it will be Octor first when ever that happens or wherever I may be, to hear of Your Happineſs will always be a great addition to mine

I am My Dear Sr with the highest
Esteem & most sincere Affection Yours

Wm Whipple

Gen: Whipple

about Dr Lee's

vindication.

1784

Free W. Whipple

Hon'ble
Richard Henry Lee Esqr
at Chantilly - Northern neck
Virginia

23 Augt. 1779
Hon. Wm Whipple

Bordeaux 23 Aug 1779

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir

I am honored by your favor of the 16th. I feel equally with you the desire to keep independant the many Miscarriages, Loss and imprudences in launching too deep prevents me from being so I hope to struggle thro' but not without trouble If I could encrease my Credit with Le Couteulx I could easily work round should you have an opportunity of seeing him should be obliged to you as convenience offers to throw in a few words to strengthen the Good opinion they appear to have conceived in my favor

We are not advised by any Conveyance how LaMotte Piquet disposed of our Ships I hope he granted them a Convoy no Arrivals in this Court from America what can become of the Frigate Deane & pilot Boat Capt Read from Philadelphia I have Letters from Philadelphia Via Holland 29 May they

make

make no Mention of Charles Town but I learn the Captain has reported the same that we heard off the Lee Packet of Provosts defeat

Mr Roſs is going to America with Capt Green who writes me he has two other paſsengers. Mr Roſs you have an Account For he cannot get over the non admitting him to a share in the Agentcy with your Brother, he will write to Deane & R Morris. the point will be to keep him say them from entering into publick departments their Prejudices are so strong they will Clogg the Wheels by opposing every measure not in their Line. Mr Gillon told me Mr Roſs was at Paſsi. should there be any removes in the European department I do not apprehend we shall see any of the Eastern Members as Envoys. So Carolina or one of the middle States will more probably be chosen that Mr Carmicheal as is reported comes over in a publick Character I cannot Credit some Men of Eminence & Independant Fortunes may surely be found

to

they will
~~to~~ give a Credit to the Charge The Members in Congress are fully employ'd what by opposing Pretentions to Pretentions bringing in proper Persons counteracting plans laid to embarass and providing for the Charge of the State, how far Mr Franklin is supported by this Kingdom I cannot say Mr Le Rey de Chaumont appears to have a great influence in All affairs relative to the american States. Capt Jones The Alliance and three other ships are saild we shall consequently hear shortly of their intended Mission The ~~[illegible]~~ descent cannot be intended the delays are too many or if, the Season advances so as to render the success very precarious we are advised from Lisbon of an English ship of Force being taken by two French Frigates the ship is supposed the Jupiter I am respectfully

Sir

Your very Hble Serv

John Bondfield

LAFAYETTE WOULD BE PROUD TO CARRY THE SWORD GIVEN HIM BY CONGRESS INTO THE HEART OF ENGLAND
THE SWORD WAS SENT BY BENJ. FRANKLIN AND DELIVERED TO LAFAYETTE BY HIS GRANDSON

1779

LAFAYETTE
COLLECTION
S.W.J.

A. L. S. Lafayette to Arthur Lee. Havre
August 28. 1779.

Arthur Lee [1740-1792] Great grandson of Richard Lee the first American immigrant, grandson of the second Richard Lee and son of Thomas who married Hannah Ludwell daughter of Col. Philip Ludwell of "Green Spring". In 1775 he became confidential correspondent of the Continental Congress. In Oct. 1776 he was appointed one of the three Commissioners to negotiate a treaty with France and solicit aid. He returned to America in 1780 and was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1781, then to the Continental Congress till 1784. He never married and spent his last years on his estate Lansdowne, Middlesex Co. Va.

Mr. d'Orvilliers Louis Guillouet, Comte [1708-1791]
Commander of the fleet against England.

"delivered by his grandson" i.e.

William Temple Franklin (1760-1823) He became his grandfather's secretary in Paris and later directed the writings of Benjamin Franklin.

"Mr. Prevosts misfortunes" apparently Prevost had had some success at this time in Carolina and the British had taken this out by a burning expedition in Virginia. Cannot find Prevost in D.N.B but see Cambridge Modern History VII pp 218-19.

Purchased at Hearst Sale Nov. 16. 1938

Au havre 28th august 1779

Had I not every day waited for intelligences, my dear Sir, a gratefull answer to your polite letter would not have been so long detain'd— But I was in hopes of Making it more agreable by important news it should have contain'd, and do not however give up in this moment the Right of sending you before long an interesting gazette— There is not a minute in the present circumstances, but which May acquaint us of such an event as will be rank'd among The greatest ones in the history of Nations— By the last accounts from mr d'orvilliers, he was within sight of the British fleets, and determin'd to atack it as soon as winds would permit his coming up with them— you know of the Ardent ship of the line being taken by our frigattes— you also have been told that eleven sails were gone into

Mr arthur lee

St Georgi's Channel, and that Sir Charles's fleet was consisting of 31 ships of the line— on our part, we are entirely Ready, provisions and stores of any kind are on Board, and we wait for Nothing but ~~an~~ intelligences from the Admiral, and a proper convoy to carry us on the shores of Great Britain.

I have the pleasure to inform you, My dear Sir, that the Noble present Congress were pleas'd to add to so many favors and precious Marks of theyr Goodness towards me, has been sent to me By Doctor Franklin, and Delivered By his Grand son, who brought in the sametime the Most obliging letter from the Doctor. That sword I am proud to carry into the heart of England, and I will ever consider as a new bound which ~~[illegible]~~ increases the Right I boast off of being considered as one of the most Zealous ~~[illegible]~~ servants of the United States.

The little Burning expedition in Virginia is pretty well accounted for By our Enemy's Misfortunes, and I heartly give you joy for the Carolinian intelligences which, I think, are no more to be questioned.

Farewell,— My dear Sir, I hope you don't doubt, but that I will ever be happy in hearing from you, and with the sincerest Regard, the truest affection I am

Yours

Lafayette

P: S:

They say that the lieutenant of the Ariel, was so Angry with the sight of an english Ship of the line surrendering to two frigattes, that out of despair he has drowned himself

Dear Sir (No 317) Augt 28 — 79

I believe I made ſome mistake in putting up the Papers for you by last post, as I find a Letter of the kind which I intended to have ſent — . Direction on the Cover —

His Excellency
The President of
Congreſs

Paris June 5th 1779

I beg the favor of your Excellency, to lay my Respects before Congreſs; with a Repetition of my most earnest request to be recalled. I should most willingly continue to ſacrifice, as I have hitherto done, my private Interests to the public good. But I am ſatisfied that the diſsentions raised concerning me, will be continued by a continuance of my Commiſsion, and will be of more injury to the public than I can be of Service. And as the public good was the ſole motive of my accepting the Commiſsion, the ſame reason now induces me to desire most earnestly to resign it.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest respect
Your Excellency's most
obedient humble
Servant

His Excellency the
President of Congreſs

Tho' dated June 5th it is the exact Copy of May 31st which was this day read in Congreſs and produced the ~~following~~ inclosed Resolve. I imagined ſuch an Entry on the Journals would be a ſort of decency beyond total Silence and therefore moved it — . The Letter was listened to with Gravity and some Remarks

Jas Lovel. to R. H. Lee
(No 317)
Supplement to Letter of Aug. 28th 1779.

I made were approved & confirmed by each one who spoke and by no one more than Mercer who acknowledged that this Letter gave him new & pleasing Ideas of Mr. Lee. I was sure yr. Brother would so conduct if he found his Ability to serve these States to be impaired by the malignant Arts of his avowed Enemies strengthened by the unbecoming Tameness of those who ought to be the Patrons of his Honor on the meer ground of official Relation, to say nothing of his proved Capacity his acknowledged Integrity and his unwearied Zeal.

I did not venture to put into the Presidents Letter, as a copy now sent, one of the old Letters of March 1st. for had I been interrogated as to its arrival I should not have been in the State that honest Davus wished to be in regard to the placing of the Infant, ut liquido faciam says he, if I am called upon to deny it. There would be a meanness in putting in now what I intend readily to own, when there is occasion, that I aided to suppress.

I have by me a Letter from Capt. Fowler to a Friend of his here Col. Semple, in which, upon Sight of Rowlands Piece of Augt. 4th., he was induced to insert the strongest Testimony of the Stock jobbing Schemes of Wharton Bancroft &c. wishing however to have his

name concealed. He writes from Ohio Sep. 22

Dear Sir (N°. 318) Aug 28th 79

Very ill, probably with a ſettled fever, I must be ſhort. Mr Bennit, on the 27th, delivered to me all the Papers you specified. I ſend you what Letters I have by me that I think you want. If you find them unneceſsary you may spare the duplicates.

You have a Copy Arthur's Letter of Feb. 10th to the President ~~&~~ with all the Vouchers; So that much trouble will be ſaved —

By your ſending me Feb. 25th to the Chairm^n of the Com^tee &c without cutting off the last leaf I imagine you meant to have it presented in that form. I had thought otherwise, on ſeeing that you was to do as you pleased; and I had struck out the word motley as it admitted of two references, when your Brother intended one only.

There are remarks upon the correspondence between the Doct^r. & He relative to Papers. I do not know but they are also to y^r. Discretion but as they have appeared in the Congreſs Room I shall let them be read, so that I may probably add the laſt Sheet above hinted at, when there shall be Time, but a ſpecial order this day prevented.

A Letter of Apr 27 to the Chairman in answer to the 2^d Paper of Deane, ſent by the Marq. is rec^d. and has been offered. There is but little new

I send you an extract prepared on purpose for you. I wish I may come at the double of it, as it would do better to send to such men as J.B. Smith &c than the more lengthy performance.

Read — dated —

Mar 4 — Decr. 3. J Adams
8 do.
5 - - - - - -
July 23. B.F. & J.A.
May 10 - Sepr. 22. B.F. A.L. & J.A.
July 14 Mar. 4-79 R. Izard.
15 Oct. 5/8 } A Lee
Nov. 18
Decr. 5.
Jan 5-79
15
20
Mar 4
Apr 6
— 27 Jan 28. R Izard.
Aug. 17. May 26. B.F.
19 Sepr. 12-78 Wm. Lee | 12. 20 & Octr. 15 were read Feb. 22.
20. Feb. 13-79 } J Adams
Aug 3
4
Aug 23. May 21. A Lee

on hand Feb 25 } W Lee
Mar 25
Apr. 26. A Lee
Feb. 25 A Lee to Chairman
Apr 27. A Lee to do.
Remarks on the following Z
Letters between A.L. & B.F. Z
Vouchers No. 1. 2. 3. 4, 5, 6

Apr. 23d. A L's memorial respecting
the accounts of Mr. Williams and
~~the~~ history of Doct. F's Conduct
connected with his Patronage
of W—. in particular.

My Pen, I can hold no longer.

affectionately J L

augst 28th

I have rd. the Beaver in full 879 1/3 dollrs. It was yr. Brothers ~~intent that~~ a Post Conveyance shd. be used. We shd. have had them sooner. without Expence. The Post I esteemd safe now.

(No 318)

Jas Lovell
to
R. H. Lee
Aug. 28th 1779

Mr Lovel 28 Aug.
1779

J Lovell

Hon. the
Richd Henry Lee Esqr
Chantilly

Philadelphia 31st August 1779.

My Dear Sir

Since the date of my last trouble the 24th Inst. I have been honored with your favors of the 13th & 23d the former by an express Messenger, who assured me he should not return till this day, but I learned last Night at Mr. Lovel's that he went off suddenly on Sunday. Yesterday I received at Congress two Packets & one small Letter directed to you, these I apprehend came by the Eastern Post, at Mr. Lovel's request I shall send them to him to be forwarded in a proper manner.

I am sorry to find you continue an Invalid, but how can it be otherwise if you also continue to fatigue both body & mind. you must not allow the attempts & designs of wicked Men to operate in the very manner they would wish, let us proceed fairly, boldly & wisely and truth will drive them out of their intrenchments, they are now closely hemm'd in & cannot escape.

On Tuesday last at the reading of a Letter from A Lee Esqr. I moved to commit that Letter together with Mr. Lee's vindication to a special Committee, besides the reason of the thing, I grounded my motion on a Commitment of a late Memorial from Mr. Deane, a Copy of which you will receive herewith, you will give this performance a proper name — the Motion was laboriously opposed & in C.T's language, after some time spent in debates, ended by a motion for adjournment.

On some day since Tuesday, a Report from the Treasury was taken up recommending a Warrant to Issue for 10000. Dollars to the Honble S. D. Esqr. in full for his Expences from the 4th June 1778. I opposed the Payment of that or any Sum to Mr. Deane until his

the Accots.

he should account for the largest Sums of Publick Money, which have been in his hands — the question was put shall ten thousand stand — lost Motion to insert 15000 — question lost — to insert 12000 — lost — to insert insert 10500 — carried even by voices who were against 10000. or any Sum, because they were wearied & had been worried; this deficiency of Firmness & perseverance is the source of much irregularity & much evil in publick business — the Yeas & Nays were called for in every stage & finally upon the Resolution, I reflect with pleasure that I stand uniformly through the whole — A question was asked of the Treasury, has Mr. Deane given in an account of his expences? artfully replied to by a Gentleman who had formerly given proofs of his abilities in answering Interrogatories — no a regular one — not a regular one — this Gentleman perfectly well knew, that Mr. Deane had given in a very minute one, amounting to 24000. Dollars & upwards, he also knew the artifice which had been practised by one of his Colleagues in the Board to repossess Mr. Deane of a paper which he discovered could not be crammed down the throats even of the Treasury.

I had seen that account & had been promised a Copy of it but as I am informed, Mr. Duane the very next morning ask a high passion of offence at so shameful a demand & his zeal for the publick good carried him rather beyond the line of prudence, he ordered that the Account should be immediately carried back to the demandant, with a declaration that Congress would allow no such accounts — as Mr. Deane has not judged it proper to return that or any other, 'tis not to be doubted but that a Gentleman of Mr. Duane's candor now regrets his rashness in parting with the original. I received this relation from one of those worthy friends who sincerely wish to screen

dom

done, but who will not encounter the trouble necessary to accomplish right. — I shall endeavor to trace this matter to its source & hopefully the whole House will be informed of it.

Saturday last a Letter from Mr. Wm. Lee accompanied by his vindication was brought into Congress, but the "Order of the day" laid those Papers asleep, yesterday an attempt was made to keep them out of hearing a little longer, I complain'd heavily of the Innovation & after much debate they were in part read, the House grew thin, & at length only eight states being present, adjourned — I believe I am wrong, W L's Papers were read, those from A L. were not.

My Colleague Mr. Drayton has been confin'd to his Bed some three weeks past, when I had learned that he was really ill, I could not refrain from visiting him, his permission being previously obtain'd. when I approached his Bed he clasp'd my hand & wept affectingly. After recovering his voice he remarked his great satisfaction at seeing me & particularly requested I would write a state of his Case to Mrs. Drayton, — the Physicians think him dangerously ill, say he may live one or two weeks longer — that if he has strength to support the discharge from an abscess in his side, they shall raise him again, but that he will remain an Invalid several Months. —

Upon Mr. Drayton's recovery or upon the arrival of another Colleague my continuance here partly depends, but I am much inclin'd to return homeward in the course of next Month, I believe I shall have the honor of waiting on you before the 1st. October. — Finances as they were

News

179 News from Penobscot very unfavorable but no particulars, I would compound for the loss of all our Ships provided the Soldiers & Sailors escape Capture.

Dunlap's Paper of this Morning will present Rowlan & ~~much~~ some intelligence.

I beg Sir you will present my Compliments to your Brother I shall have much to say to both you & him when I have the happiness of meeting you—& deferring to that time will be best—many Clouds will in the mea time pass away & subjects in embrio be matured.

I remain with sincere Esteem & Respect Your obliged & faithful & humble Servant.

Henry Laurens,

Mr. Laurens
31st Aug.
wicked machinations of the
Deaneans or
Anti Americans

The Honorable
Richard Henry Lee Esquire.
Virginia.

August 1st 1779 by the desire of Arthur Lee Esqr. I left Paris in company with Mr. Pollard in order to meet William Lee Esqr. at Vallenciennes. We arrived there on the 2d. and enquired for William Lee Esqr. at the posthouse where we found him. We had agreed to attend him in an affair of honour with Mr. Petrie, whom we expected at Vallenciennes every moment.

Mr. Petrie accordingly arrived at Vallenciennes on the 3d. of August in the Evening, and upon our informing Mr. Petrie that Mr. Lee could not obtain an order for horses, Mr. Petrie replied he would not wait longer than one oClock on the 4th. for Mr. Lee. Soon after, which was late in the Evening of the 3d. Mr. Lee obtained an order for horses, and we waited on Mr. Petrie to inform him that Mr. Lee expected him half an english mile this side of the french barrier on the high road leading to Tournay from Vallenciennes, where Mr. Lee would wait till twelve oClock, if Mr. Petrie did not appear there sooner. Mr. Petrie then made an objection on account of the damage he pretended his carriage had received in travelling & did not know in what time it could be repaired. We repeated Mr. Lee's meſsage eight oClock next morning desiring Mr. Petrie to meet him at the place mentioned. In consequence of this Mr. Pollard & myself in company with Mr. Lee went to the place appointed, where we waited till near one oClock when not having heard or seen any thing of Mr. Petrie we continued to Tournay, where we remained till the 5th of Augt. Mr. Petries excuse of his damaged carriage appeared to us frivolous & was never mentioned till Mr. had procured an order for horses. When Mr. Petrie knew Mr. Lee could not get horses, he was very preſsing & insisted he would wait no longer than one oClock, refusing to aſsist us with his order for horses & adding that we might walk. However when Mr. Lee obtained horses, Mr. Petrie's carriage is then pretended a sufficient excuse for his delay, as if he might not have hired a Carriage at the posthouse where there were several & where we hired one for ourselves. Upon the whole it appeared to us, that as Mr. Petrie had an order for horses with him & could have hired a a Cabriolet or other Carriage; that his Conduct was evasive & equivocal, & that he was determined not to come to a conclusion of the buſineſs. A consideration of these circumstances will no doubt impreſs the same sentiments on every impartial person.

William Boush —

Wm Bonsh's Statement - Aug. 1st 1779.
Affair between Wm Lee & Saml Petrie.

Bonsh v Petrie

1779

Dear Sir St. Amand 1st Septr. 1779. —

If it be true that the combined fleet
ere in chase of Hardy on the 23d, some decisive
troke has probably been struck before this
ime. The capture of the Eleven Ships you
eak of, would I think, certainly give
us Peace in the Winter. This I most fer-
ently wish for on every account; but particularly
o on account of the situation of our affairs
on both sides of the Atlantic. The Braxtonian's
[illegible] which Mr. Pringle sent you may possibly
e true. The Letters with which Captn. Green
[illegible] charged, ~~it~~ might have given us an
account of those proceedings; you can not forget
what Bondfield wrote you that Green said about

Passy. The Courier de l'Europe about two or three weeks ago gave an account of the capture of a vessel of 10 Guns called the Count d'Estaing, by an English Privateer bringing dispatches from the Congress to their Commissioners in Europe. If the Commissioners who were charged with the examination of Mr. Deane's affairs, omitted attention to transmit two copies of his acquittal before our dispatches by your Brothers were received, it was as much as their modesty ought to have allowed them to do. I am now obliged to depend entirely upon the Courier de l'Europe for English News. My correspondent in London was desired to address my papers to me directly at this place. They came once in that manner, & I received them of the 10th August before they could have got to Paris. I have received none since; and whether I am obliged to the rulers of France, or England for being deprived of so considerab [illegible] gratification I know not. You seem desirous of knowing whether either of the three Gentlemen you mention, hired Post Horses at V. & for what place, on 4th August. If you wish me to enquire I will do it; but think it is a matter that had better if poſsible be dropt entirely. I am glad to hear that Bondfield has been able to forward the Commodore's busineſs. The

war however, I expect will be over befo
the Frigates are Launched. I thank yo
for your enquiries about my health. M
Wife will have informed you that the
remedies of this place have been of
service to me. We've had four, or
five hot days lately, which have done
more good to the Invalids here, than
three times the number at any other tim
this year. It is not in my power to say
when I shall return; but I am heartily
desirous of getting rid of the unpleasant
discipline of this place, & to be with my
family & friends again. I am with
great regard Dr Sr Yours Sincerely —

Dear Sir, 6 [illegible] Menokin Septr. 6. 1779 6

The Chevalier D'Anmours who will have the honor of delivering you this letter, having been lately appointed Consul of France for this State, as he before was for Maryland, comes now to pay his respects to you. I have had the pleasure of being acquainted with this gentleman since early in the year 1777 and I have found in him the same unshaken attachment to our cause in times of its great depreſsion as others are willing to shew in the day of its prosperity. The goodneſs of the Chevaliers head is by no means inferior to that of his heart, few men having more knowledge of books and the world than he poſseſses. It gives me pleasure to introduce such a person to your acquaintance —

I am yours dear Sir with most affectionate respect and esteem

Richard Henry Lee

Ar: Lee Esqr.
Paris

Paris Sept. the 11th. 79

Sir

Lay it according to the date

I am extremely happy to have this fresh Opportunity of shewing the great regard I have for you & my great readiness in doing what may be agreable

You will therefore find inclosed a fresh Copy of the account that dates as far as July the 10th. 1777 & likewise a Worth of two days, which I fear wont be very usefull.

Neverthelefs I must say you mistake when you say some Articles of my account are unsatisfactory & appear not to be relating to the Commission, since every one of them ~~Articles~~ has been examined & approved of.

I am with great Consideration

Sir

Your most ob.t Hble Servt.
for Mr. Grand
Hy. Grand

Dear Sir

I Suppose your Expectation is almost tired out, but Surely something has been done before this, for we have several Accounts by Fishermen & privateers that were within 8 miles of each other on the 30 Ultimo. the wind at present blows hard at North West

I hear from Passy that the Representatives of Delaware State, of Maryland, Virginia, N Carolina & new Jersey are against you — I hear too that it is reported by some that the Doctr is recalled. — do you know any thing of it.

Give me leave to beg the favor of you to buy a pair of Silver Buckles for John & send them to him. Should you think of going to America would it be disagreable to you to take him under your care. he will do more good in active times than a Studious Life.

The Postscript of the Courier promises Great News in the next. — I beg to be remembered to your Nephew

I am D Sir
yours Sincerely.
J. Clement

Boulogne sur Mer
Septr. 8. 1779

P.S. pray pay my respects to Mr & Mrs Grand

Mr Franklin presents his Complimen
to Mr Lee, and ſends all the Journals he
has, but as he has not yet had time to read
them, he prays Mr Lee to return them whe
he has peruſed them.

Paſsy, Sept. 12. 79—

Dear Sir S$^{t.}$ Amand 12th Sept$^{r.}$ 1779.—

I have seen the Gazette de France with the account of M. d'Estaings proceedings. The affair between him & Byron, seems like that of 27 July 1778, to have been a drawn Battle, & both parties will claim the victory. The taking of Grenada will be a severer stroke upon the Scotch than any thing they have sustained during the war. They are Proprietors of the greatest part of the Island. Do not write any more to me here, after the receipt of this Letter, as I expect the pleasure of seeing you in Paris during the course of this Week; give my Comp$^{s.}$ to your next door neighbour, & let him know this. Be so good as to send your Servant, as soon as this gets to your hands, to the Rue de la Jussienne, au Bureau des Gazettes Etrangeres, & order the Man not to send my Courier de l'Europe here any longer, but to the Hotel de Toulouse as heretofore. Adieu.

Yours affectionately R. I.—

Dear Sir

The weather being fine I am
d. to take a little Tour into Flanders - I propose
going by Ostend Ghent & Bruſsells if you have any particular
News a Letter to me at the Post office at the latter place
will come to Hand. in the Mean Time let me beg of you
to pay the Mistreſs of Johns Pension her demands for the ensuing
Quarter. they will come to between three or four hundred Livres
for that Purpose you will find at the Bottom hereof an order on
Mr Grand - I beg to be remembered to your Nephew.

I am Dear Sir

Yours Most Sincerely

Edm: Jenings

Boulogne Sur Mer
Sept 15. 1779.

A. Lee to the Legislature of Virginia
Paris Sep. 15. 1779

"My colleagues attempted in one article of the treaty to sacrifice our country to France". —
(Book in Dept. of State)

private

Philada Sepr 17th 1779

Dear Sir

I have written very frequently to you, but have no Copies of the Emanations of my friendly attachment to your merits as they have at those Periods appeared on Paper. But the Nature & especially the Sincerity of them may perhaps be better judged of by seeing what I wrote to your Nonamicals. — I find that a Mr Cummins and a Mr Smith have been taken. By the latter I wrote in a private Capacity to all three of the Commissrs but have only a copy of one to Dr F. and perhaps never sent a copy of that before this day. I have ordered the Bearer of this Scrawl to deliver one to you marked A *if you are in France*. If not to break the Seal and deliver the inclosed as directed. If it comes into yr hand, break the Seal and you will find a second Envelop properly directed, to which you may put a *Wafer*. If you do not get that Proof, take my Word for it that what little Health I have left unsacrificed by 17 months Imprisonment & 33 months Drudgery here, shall be exerted in every necessary occasion to defend your Name & Character against villainous attacks, the Spirit for which, however, has long ago become despicable.

Your Choice from Salust: of a Motto for one of yr Friends came too late almost, for in a few days after my Receipt of it, quietus took absolute occupancy of turbidus inquietus atrox. —Dont start at the Expression of my Receipt; but know that upon reading a Letter for R H L or F L L or J L I broke every Seal and by the Advice of yr hearty friends Mr Lawrens Genl Whipple & others, presented the Defences Replications Remarks & their Vouchers, not keeping back the last half Sheet wch contained an a fortiori.

a paper unsigned, among Mr A Lee's Dispatches, read Sepr 2d.

This was a Course of Observations upon the Correspondence relative to yr joint papers.

The Remarks upon the Employment of W—s are at hand whenever

that Busineſs shall be taken up,
as also are Letters between J A—
and Cl. K—ns. Mr A's Testimony
in Regard to you & yr two Brothe
is manly as well as just.

No Step is *yet* thought neceſsary with regard to the Affair of Sergeant & Ingersol, or that of evacuating the Post mentioned by you. The moving of the Waters are closely watched.

I find by a Letter this day recd. from my friend Genl Warren of the Navy Board Boston that some Justice of Peace in the Jersies has rudely opened Letters for you & Mr Schweighauser going from me to his Care by a Boston Gentleman who did not think of taking a *Paſs* with him: better so than to be opened by some ſuch as you and I know who are no *Justices*. I believe the Letters were from R H L covered by me to Schweighauser for the Sake of telling him that I ſhould ward off the arrows of the Aſsaſsins of his Son in Law's Character when any of them fly this Way. They come from awkward tho practiced Bowmen.

La Luzerne does not speak English I shall naturally be led to more Intercourse with him than his Predecessor, from that Circumstance. you see how S.A. & I are marked in the Company-Thing of Paca & Drayton; doubtless the latter tale bore many of our Honesties from the State House to the Hôtel; but I cannot say that I ever discovered a consequent manifestation of Dislike. Those Browbeatings however are never practiced against manly Indifference. Perhaps it would have been better if several of us had not, from an aversion to even the appearance of Sycophancy, left a Stranger without proper Warnings against that insidious Class. ——— Ford has not been here you know by my Letters of April that he was judged by the State of Virginia to be not fit to be near the Person of an american Commissioner. — R H L has been greatly indisposed but is mending now in his Health. —— I doubt whether you will by this opportunity know any thing decisive of our opinion respecting the 2 Spanish points of negociation; but you may depend on it that we are disposed to do every thing to cement a triple alliance whenever Spain shall signify her Wishes through you or other regular Channel

The Floridas are not ours, they belong to our Enemy. A free Navigation of the Miſs.^{pi} is to be wished for but cannot be claimed if S— owns both Banks near the Mouth though millions of Acres of Virginia lay also on the Waters of that River higher up. ——

Are you so munified with orders from the State of Virginia that if a Veſsel with Goods ſent by you for that State should be lost you will not be made to bear the whole burden? I have been told such a Thing is whispered here. Pray be on y^{r} Guard. Caution is what an honest Man may condescend to learn from Rogues. —

I must endeavor to speak a good Word for Daddy Dumas. He has been very particular in the margins of the Leyden Gazette Feb 23 to write where it respects you "Je n'ai aucune part a toute cette insertion; & je n'ai pu la voir qu'avec affliction". I should think he would not hesitate to tell the author of that rascally Paragraph which is in the Gazette of March 30. how wou'd the Refusal consist with his written profession above mentioned?

You have had an abandoned ſet at your Elbow, to watch over. And you made ſome here very rancorou at the firſt of y^r Correſpondence. I never could find by the Books of the Com^{tee} who the two were that you was miſtruſtful of. The Letter Book is not ſigned, ſo as that I can ſee who were 2^d & 5th It will not do to take them as they stand on the Journals when elected. But if Complaiſance put Franklin in the Chair I get Harriſon & Jay. You also once ſaid ſomething about Mr Duane's Servant. An Attempt was made to embitter the mind of Govr Reed who happened to be a Member of Congreſs when the Dictionary came to light. But Mr Reed says you did your Duty well.

Something in y^r Letters to the Com^{tee} was in Cyphers. Merryweather Smith deciphered it readily otherwise I must have ſent it on to Virginia to y^r Brother. I know that R H L thinks that mode is now as uſeleſs as if Deane knew it; need I say more? I think it would be clever to have a Cypher in Com^{tee}, but not to be also used to your Brother or y^r Friend; those ſhould be diſtinct ones.

We have never yet got but one Treaty printed in French by Authority I mean one of Each which I gave to the Secretary's Office. I wish to own them myself. ——

Why should you and I fret at a Man's putting up in his Chamber the Bust of Catiline or any other Rascal, if ~~they~~ leave us at Liberty to place in ours Cato Hampden or Adams? ——

If yr Brother and Mr Izard are near you deliver the Letters for them inclosed. I am not become enough acquainted with those Gentlemen to scrawl away freely & carelessly to them my Resentments at the manner in which they have been treated by private Information or public decisions. I Esteem them both as fast friends of America and Mankind at large. ——

I before informed you that som wiseacres affirm that a Committee for Correspondence is useless; I have no Clerk the Papers of the former Office lay at Random, and I am determined they shall be preserved in due arrangement, therefore

you will believe me when
I ſay I am overplied with
affairs. I fear loosing a
convenient Occasion of getting
my Packets to the Ship if I do
not now close; but will if
necessary take up my Pen
again before she sails to give
you Information and fresh aſ-
surance of my being

Dear Sir
Your Friend
and very humble
Servant
James Lovell

Hon Arthur Lee Esq!

Sir   Boston Sept 17

The Situation of the Inclosed [illegible] to my Care by our Good Friend Mr Lovel makes it necessary that I should Explain to you by what Means it has been Opened.

Your Letter with several others Inclosed to me by Mr Lovel, were Intrusted to the Care of A Young Gentleman of Character, who was Bound to this place, but Neglecting to take A Pass, was stoped in the Jersies by A Justice of the Peace, who Opened most of the Letters before he would suffer him to pass, & yours among the rest. I am Extreemly sorry for this Accident, it would have given me great pleasure to have forwarded them to you in the State they left Philadelphia, however I conceive no Bad Consequences will Ensue from this Circumstance. I have not the pleasure of being personally known to you, but I have the satisfaction of ranking myself with those who respect your Character, & the merit of your Services to this Country, & who while they detest the Ingratitude of others who have Injured both, wish to Embrace every Opportunity to do you Service, & to testify their Esteem.

I am Sir with Great
Respect & Sincerely
Your Friend & Most
Humble Serv
J Warren

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

My dear Sir; (No 319)   Maryland Sepr ye 18th 1779

Your affectd Letter of the 15. Instant came to hand this morning and your Opinion of the Law, has given me great satisfaction as Mr Hood by his Letter inclosed seems to be of a contrary Opinion however my greatest dependance is & always was on you; I have given Mr Hood two hundred pounds your Money one hundred of wch he has recd & the other I have promised to pay to his order or continue by the first safe conveyance, so that he is sure of fifty he says his usual fee was ten pounds Virga Curcy & he confesses that at so favourable of the present circulating money, so that I have consented to comply with his extravagant demand, lest he should be offended, if I had refused his extra-ordinary Demand,

It gives me great pleasure to be informed you intend to be at the Trial, as I am convinced 'twill be of great Service to my Sons Cause, I have wrote Mr Hood by Branson, that I should take it as a favour, he would call at your House before he goes to [illegible] that he would dine with you if possible tomorrow. I am convinced no Deed has been made by Booth to the Land my Son bought of [illegible], tho he has recd near three fourths of the Consideration money, you'll observe what Mr Hood says relative to this matter & am in hopes he is mistaken in that as well as in some other Matters &c. The contest in litigation should the Laws go against my Son you should then be of

of the same Opinion that the Cause should be carried on in the that he has been most of his time out of Great Britain since he left America, you are the best Judge whether 'twill be productive of any good consequence to shew it to some Gentn. and others of your acquaintance or not. I wish you very Good and am with the greatest Truth,

My dear Sir

Yr. most obedt. and affecd hble Servt

Richd Lee

PS.

Our best Wishes attend you & your Lady & Family — what concerns me no Deed has been made to my Son from Mr. Booth, is that my Daugr. Hannah and my wife have looked over all my Son's Papers & there is no Deed from Mr. Booth among them

[illegible] Braxton [illegible] with your

Letter remain the Fee for Mr. Page will and also enclose you in his return for a Letter from you to that Gentn. or Mr. Thomson Mason who I am told is a good Lawyer that two have attended to the Genl. Court on the Condemnation of Col. Fairfax's Estate & also Lord Fairfax's the former I am told he has said does not come under the Law, but I think employ which you think proper of the two Gentn. when you write me again inform me the Fee that ought to be given. you'll observe by Mr. Wood's Letter, that he wishes to could prove Mr. Threlkeld's hand writing, I am in hopes you or the Esqr. can do it, if not I am convinced that Bishop George Turberville can do it, as I am credibly informed they corresponded together, he will inform you the Contents of wch. he wants it proved, Braxton can also prove that my Son intended to go to England before this contest began by some discourse he had with him in the year 1773 – He will upon asking him inform you what my Son said upon the Occasion by wch. you'll judge, whether his Residence will be of service or not and direct him accordingly whether he should be sworn or not upon the Occasion; I enclose you a Letter, I recd. from Mr Tindall I had one almost of a similar sort, wch. I forgot to send by my Daughter and so you was going home as I thought. Did not send it [illegible]; as this may be no Evidence in Court, yet upon shewing it to some of your acquaintance it may alter their Opinion as to his Loss of Residence as well as [illegible] his Plan to turn over

Richard Lee to R. H. Lee. Sep. 18th 1779

(No 19)

Philadelphia 18th Sepr 1779

My Dear Sir

When I did myself the Honor of writing to You last, it was my intention to tarry here till the latter end of next month, but the arrival of a second Colleague has altered my determination, I shall take my leave of this City tomorrow, but I must confess I shall not do it with the satisfaction I should if Virginia and some other States that might be mentioned were Represented in the manner I have known them.—

It affords me particular satisfaction to find by Your favor of the 4th inst that Your health is restored.— I hope Your influence will make some beneficial changes in the politics of Virginia, I am sure your endeavours will not be wanting, and I am very sure you are convinced of the necessity of changing men if not measures. If there is as much Virtue and Integrity in a certain Assembly as formerly, there certainly is a Languor, a want of Resolution, to oppose vice, and stem the torrent of corruption that at this time threatens even to America, but I hope that persevering Spirit which heretofore faced every difficulty and looked all opposition out of countenance, will again revive and scatter the Cloud that now hangs over us. I expect my retirement will afford me a satisfaction impossible to be enjoyed in Philadelphia. But however happy my situation may be, it will ever be increased by hearing of the prosperity and

Happiness of those worthy Patriots who first stepped forward, braved every danger & combated the greatest difficulties and by their virtuous Struggles and unremitted exertions have thus far rescued their Country from the hand of Tyranny. Some of your Friends particularly Mr Laurens & Mr Lovell will give you an acct how matters are going on here, these Gentn I need not tell you, are real Friends to virtue and consequently to those devoted to the cause of virtue — I much approve Dr Lee's intention to come to this Country when the Spanish business is concluded. I think it necessary that he sho. have a fair opportunity of puting to shame those base assassins whose malice is wrought up to the highest pitch by a consciousness of their own inferiority If he lands in New-Hampshire I am confident he will be received with the Respect due, and in some measure proportioned to his merit. I shall be particularly happy in having an opportunity of manifesting my Gratitude for his services to America — —

Notwithstanding the great distance between us, I shall flatter myself with hopes of sometimes receiving a line from you & You may be assured I shall omit no opportunity of communicating whatever I think will give you pleasure — Please to Remember me very affectionately to Col. F. Lee

I am My Dear Sir with the highest
Esteem and Respect Your Sincerely Affectionate Friend

Wm Whipple

183

Honble

Richard Henry Lee Esq

at Chantilly – Northern neck

Virginia

to the care of the post master

Leeds town

Free
W. Whipple

18 Sept. 1779
Hon. General Whipple

Jay reçu Monsieur les deux lettres que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire et dont je vous fais mille remerciemens. l'arrivée de la fregatte la Sensible a Boston m'a fait un plaisir extreme et a cause de l'interet que je prends dans ceux qu'elle portait et parce que les voila a portée de faire les affaires qui leur sont confiés

L'armée avoit deja debarqué 700 malades le 18 mai Il n'y a pas la mortalité qu'on craignait. on desarme les vx de 64 pour completter les autres et l'armée doit repartir le 29. on prepare le complement de navires necessaires pour embarquer 2000 chevaux.

Comment mr Gerard se trouve t il des eaux? Je vous ai chargé de mille choses pour moy et de servir Madame de mon respect

Vous Connoissez Monsieur le Sincere attachement avec lequel J'ay l'honneur d'etre

Votre tres humble et
tres obeissant Serviteur
Sarsfield

19 7bre 1779

Voulez vous que nous convenions de finir sans ceremonie et de ne pas observer celle de l'enveloppe Je vais commencer a vous donner l'exemple sur ce dernier point

8

Dear Sir,   Chantilly Sept.r 20. 1779

Omit

I have the honor of inclosing you a letter that Mr. Mazzei formerly sent to me, and which having been mislaid among a number of papers, prevented me from returning to him so soon as he desired. It is at his request that I send it to you. I find by a letter that I received from Philadelphia by the last post, that some person has been representing a part of my letter to you by Mr. Ford in a manner not altogether fair. This freedom with your letter has been taken in your absence. It was by no means intended as a public letter, but written to my friend - and tho I am sure there is no sentiment in it that I will disavow, or fact that I did not believe on good ground; yet, if the letters of one friend to another are to be subjected to malicious misrepresentation, there must be an end to all friendly correspondence - and the office of Governor will indeed be a painful pre-eminence if he is necessarily excluded from the communications of his friends. That letter was written when I was from home and no copy of it kept. I shall be greatly obleged to you for a copy of it.

I congratutulate you on the accession of Spain to our warfare against great Britain— without a miracle now, the Tyrant and his *friends* must quickly and humbly sue for peace. Three of our Continental frigates have taken 10 Jamaica men, of which 8 are safely arrived to the eastward with upwards of 5000 hhds of Sugar besides and rum. This capture will be sufficient to tumble the Merchants like falling ninepins. the loss of the enemies hopes to the west and south are additional circumstances promise the best consequences.

I am, with very affectionate esteem and regard, dear Sir yours sincerely

Richard Henry Lee

Philad.a Sep.r 21.st 1779

Dear Sir

I rec.d nothing from you yesterday. — I am in better health than lately. — M.r Gerard is on the point of sailing — He is at Bristol, to give a Ton. I will not say positively a bon Ton to the Successor. — Decision is made respect.g Flor.da and I am told that the greatest Exertion will be made to prevent the Instructions going to A— L—, they will be pushed thro Franklin or some new appointment. — I have every Thing arranged to elucidate the new Members and make the old sin, if they do sin, with full Conviction before their Eyes. — W. H. D. is off the Stage, Jenifer D & Gov. M. are behind the Scenes; Judge F—l & Wod.d Langdon are on their Pillows But the main Chair is full. The Farmer the Fidler & the Boatswain are active. — I cannot really tell Events before hand. But I think I shall not want the advice of any Man to make me present the Triplicate & consult Ingersol & Sergeant if a Slight is put on my Friend. — If things go to my mind; I shall not undertake a troublesome Course, of uncertain Issue, and inferior triumph if attended with a verdict for the Plaintiff

S. A was well the 9.th Ellery the 2.d — our Convention for a Constitution in which are both S & J. A, have, after clear long free Discussion of Principles, determined unanimously that the Governm.t shall be a free

Republic. A Comtee is appointed to form a Plan upon the discussd & accepted Principles, so that I hope the Draught will not be obstructed when brought in at the Adjournment towards the end of Octr.

affectionately yr Friend
& humb. Servt.

[redacted]

private Sepr 22^{d} 1779

Dear Sir

I thought it best not to have any Irregularity in the Delivery of the Dispatches to the Doct^{r}, and have therefore copied the most material Points for answering the Purpose hinted to you in my Letter of the 17th.

It is only within 5 days that I learnt Mr Smith was taken; I had been told of his safe arrival. I am not certain whether I ever sent Copies of what he carried; and I find no roughs by me except of that to Doct^{r} F— tho I find a Mem^{dum} of what I committed to Mr Smith as follows April 30th.

4plicate — 7 } Hopkinson
3plicate — 8 }
my own To J Adams — 28th
To A Lee — 28
To Doct^{r} Franklin 29th
To Jon^{a} Williams 29th
Mr Jays To Dr Franklin
To Marq^{s} Fayette
Pamphlets & Gazettes to the Doct^{r}

I expect in a few hours to be able to shew you whether y^{r} honor is properly regarded here or not. If the Decision in regard to the Floridas & Missisipi are to be conveyed to Doct^{r} F or to a third person, your replicatory & defensive Letters have been in vain laid before Men *willfully blind*. But I hon better Things. I have ~~Things~~ Papers so arranged as to enlighten *new* Members and make the *old* ſin against conviction, if they do ſin.

De la Luzerne arrived last Evening in this City.

If De Vergennes did write on the 29th of Octr. "Je crains Mr. Lee et ses Entours", yet after the Testimony of such a Man as he says both he & the King think Mr. J. Adams, was laid before him on Feb. 11, I judge the minister will prove by his actions what he aſserts on the 13th of that Month.

"Si nous avons pû être instruits de vos contestations *nous* n'y ſommes entrés pour rien. et L'Estime personelle que nous avons cherché a fair remarqué a chacun de Mrs. Les Commiſsaires fait preuve que nous n'avons point adopté les preventions qu'on ſemble *vouloir* inspirer a l'Amerique, et dont le fondement nous est inconnû ici."

on. Arthur Lee

J L

Orrid 7

Dear Sir, Schenectady Septr. 20. 1779

I had the honor of writing to you a few days past by Mr. Booth to which I beg leave to refer. This I expect will be delivered to you by Monsr. [illegible] Le Maire — the latter is really unfortunately circumstanced as he states his case & the house with which he engaged it seems have so contrived as that all his private effects on board the ship he came in are detained untill this State shall ratify his bargain with them for freight and cost of the stores she brought over. This his situation renders it of consequence to him that his business with government should be quickly determined that he may return to Boston and secure his own effects — It would be very unlucky for us to loose the Stores now at Boston, and the risk will be considerable, unless government can prevail with Congress to order a Continental frigate to bring them round. I think that when the large proportion we pay of the general

expence

is considered,
it would not be very invidious to deny this request if it shall
^be made.

We are now well provided with Artillery, and if we were as well possessed of the knowledge how to use it, we should be in a good posture of defence [illegible]. Can no method be fallen upon to avail ourselves of the skill and zeal of Monsieur Loyeaute in this branch and for this country? I am persuaded it would make him happy to put our Artillery on a respectable footing and I really believe that we cannot find better abilities or more industry to accomplish it. I should suppose that some method might be adopted to reconcile jarring command and dispute about rank by a select Corps for Monsr. Loyeaute being detached from the rest and referred to his sole direction, and under whose instruction we might hope to have soon a well served respectable body of artillery. The worthy General Loyeaute, father of this gentleman, has been so kind

are so active in procuring the best Cannon & Artillery stores
for us, that it would be, I think, a genteel and agreeable
return to him, that his Son should have the forming
of a Corps to use them — It seems to come well authen-
ticated that part of Count D'Estaings fleet with 5000
men has arrived at Charles Town, and are in a fair
way to Burgoynable our enemies in that quarter —
Heaven Grant it may prove so.

I am, with very particular regard
and esteem dear Sir your most affectionate
and obedient Servant

Richard Henr

Paſsy 25th. Sept. 1779.

(No 312)

Sir,

Incloſed I have the honour of transmitting to you, Copies of Reſolutions of Congreſs, on the 6th of last Month, which my Grandfather is desired by Mr Lovell to furnish you with. I incloſe likewise a Letter to your Addreſs, which we received under Cover Yesterday Evening from Rotterdam, it is mentioned as coming from America by the Way of Statia.

With great Respect, I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient &
obliged humble Servant

W. T. Franklin.

Honble A. Lee Esq.

Wm T. Franklin to A. Lee
25th Septr 1779.

(No 312)

Sepr 25. 1779

Dear Sir

I wrote to you on my leaving Boulogne to desire that you would discharge Madam Bethead's Demand, I since sent an Order on Mr Grand to supply you. Since then I have made a Tour to St Omers, Ostend, Ghent & am now at Brussels, which I find so much to my Gout, that perhaps I shall stay here sometime, unless I can do good elsewhere. I wish much to hear of the State of Affairs. We talk here sometimes that 40000 Men are marching hither, at other times that Brussels, Ghent & Bruges have been proposed as places of Negociation & that Ghent is fixed on & that there is to be a Suspension of Arms for two Months. Is there any news of Mr Laurens & Dickinson & Smith, are they arrived? I find that General Lloyd is here. You gave me such a Character of Him, that I wish his Acquaintance — direct to me Chez Monsieur Capellen dans la Rue des Petits Carmes Bruxelles. — remember me to your Nephew & believe me

B. B.

Sept. 23. 1779.

Dear Sir yours most Sincerely

Edm. Jenings

can I be of any Service here or hereabouts.

(Copy)

George Mason Esq. Gunston Hall Virg^a

Dr Sir

Frankfort in Germ^y Sept. 25. 1779

I have nothing to add to my letters of ye 26 March & 10th May last, wch are as full a reply as I can make to y^r request for my paym^t in Europe of ye bal. due to you, tho' I have since rec^d y^r favor of the 5th of March last. ~~[illegible]~~ The very and [illegible] any Eff^s in Messrs Triplet & Thornton or Mr J. Mills' hands as was in mind, would have been a decisive proof of my desire to render you all the Justice in my power, & notwithstanding ye accuracy of y^r information from Mr Harrison, it is somewhat fortunate that I am enabled to bring clear proof, whenever t'is necessary, of my receiving information of y^r bill to Messrs Jenifer & Hoo before the time you say it was negotiable in Martinique, yet it is more fortunate for you that I did receive the intelligence, otherwise it is probable that the bill w^d have met wth ye same fate as ye one in favor of Messrs Gruel & Co, especially if I could have conceived that ye paym^t of ye one could have been ye subject of nearly as much offence as the non paym^t of the other. With respect to the curious Parisian Protest, a Gentleman [illegible] disposed to censure without just reasons, knowing that I had a [illegible] in Paris without having a very deep penetration & [illegible] might easily have suppos'd it possible, that in a strange Country, a Stranger might mistake one [illegible] for another, especially as the wording of the protest shews a Notaries mistake so clearly. That this was the case I have no doubt, because I never saw or spoke to a Notary in France, knowing him to be such, in my whole life; nor did I ever see ye bill in favor of Sa^l Gruel & Co more than once, when it was in the hands of Mr Sa^l Gruel in Nantes. You will certainly pursue what y^r own Judgm^t directs wth respect to making this affair public, but then I hope it will be done fully & fairly & that you will let it be publicly known in Virg^a that while you as a Legislator by Laws & ordinances compel me to receive paper in Virg^a for sterling money advanced in London under a positive written agreem^t that the same sh^d be paid in London free of all charges & deductions whatever, you insist on my pay^g in Europe in sterl^g a debt contracted in the ordinary way of commerce without any such stipulation. If this is conformable to the Golden Rule "Do to y^r Neighbor as you would y^r neighbor sh^d do unto you", I have no idea of its meaning. I have no right to question the professions of friendship you are pleased to make for my family, but my recollection does not furnish me wth any instance where I have personally experienced it, for when I solicited y^r favor by letter, some years ago, you did not deign to give me an answer & when you made a single consignm^t to me, you made as large to other houses that were my avowed enemies for no other reason that I ever heard of, but because I entered into ye same business with them. This I must presume you know because it was publicly known in Virg^a & Maryl^d. I have endeavor'd to imitate the style of Candor in y^r letter to me, therefore take it for granted his will merit yr full approbation & havg complyed wth yr request yshd you hear from me soon, it only remains for me to assure you of my very high respect wth wch &c.   (Signed) W. S.

Saturday 25th Septr. 1779. (No. 313)

Nominations for a Minister Plenepotentiary to treat with the Court of Great Britain for Peace and Commerce.

Mr. John Adams .... by Mr. Laurens
Mr. Jay .... by Mr. M. Smit

Sunday 26th Septr.

1st Ballot — 5 States for Mr. Adams
4 ..... for Mr. Jay ....
3 ..... divided ......
} abortive

2nd Ballot — 6 States for Mr. Adams
5 ..... for Mr. Jay ...
1 ..... divided ......
} abortive

Resolved to appoint a Minister Plenepotentiary, in lieu of a Commissioner, to treat with the Court of Spain on Alliance, and for Amity and Commerce! — Manouvre

Nominated

Mr. Arthur Lee .... by Mr. Laurens
Mr. John Adams .... by Mr. Paca — divide & Conque
Mr. Jay .... by Mr. Mercer

Ballot — by the hopper of Mr. Langdon New Hampshire for Mr. Lee
Massachusetts ....
Connecticut ....
New York — Mr. Jay's own vote was necessary
New Jersey ....
Delaware ....
Maryland ....
Virginia ....
North Carolina ....
} for Mr. Jay rejoiced &c.

Rhode Island
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
} divided, and did not vote

Ballot for a Minister to treat with the Court of Great Britain

For Mr. John Adams, eleven States

One State either pertinaciously or inadvertently voted for Dr. Franklin — the ballot according to rule not counted, as Dr. Franklin had not been nominated, therefore the vote for Mr. Adams unanimous. & I congratulate with my Country upon the occasion

HL

Vote on Enquiry
for Ministers

(No 313)

(Confidential) Monday 27th Sepr 79
(No. 320)

The Vote for appointing a Minister plenipotentiary in lieu of a Commiſsioner to negotiate a Treaty of Amity & Commerce with Spain having paſsed as I have ſhewn, and A Lee being nominated with J Adams & J Jay, I produced the two Letters of which I send you Copies, for the purpose of ſhowing the appeal of The Count de Vergennes to his own manner of Behavior towards the Commiſsioners jointly & ſeperately as the Test of his not having adopted the Prejudices which were apparently attempted to be inspired into America this appeal on Feb 13 after such a Testimony as Mr Adams's had been presented shows either that the Count had not really been afraid of Mr Lee and those about him or that he had become ſensible his Fears were ill-grounded. I performed this last act of Friendship or rather Justice to a cruelly injured man and then left the Body to proceed on Busineſs with only entreating for due Weight to be given to the abundant Proof which is on the Files of the execrable Falsehood & Vilainy of the Aſsertions and Innuendoes which had been made & published for the Purpose of blasting the Character of the virtuous & faithful Commiſsioner now in nomination as a Minister Plenipotentiary. The Baloting ~~went~~ was called for first for a Minister for Spain, with Intent to put J A there; but it being found that the prudent Class were too prudent indeed for that the Plan was changed to J J for Spain. and the crowning act of all Deanes base acts took place

N. Hamp. A Lee

R. Is
Pens
Sth Car
no Vote

Mass
Conn
N yk
N Jer.
Del. Dickinson
Mary
Vir
N Car J Jay

A Minister for Peace
J A only nomination
all the votes except
one for Doctr Franklin

The Ballot of my 3 Colleagues stands as mine for, by the yeas & nays a little before I appear to be present in Congress. This is but one of the many Stains which we are liable to in this Sort of Business.

And now, my dear Sir, I shall strive to lay aside all my Anxieties about your Brother. He ought instantly to come over and do himself all that Justice before the World which his Patriotism will permit. I cannot at present see how he will accomplish it without exposing to Censure more than Wretch who raised the Flame that has so long been burning here.

Y. Brother will be able to tell that he sent his Resignation in Time; But, that his Friends, conceiving no capital Injustice would be done him after the full Vindication against all Deane's Slanders had reached Congress, chose to ſuppreſs that Resignation, by which, otherwise, Congreſs would have been kept from adding Iniquity to Tranſgreſsion.

Your Letters of the 12th & 18th as well as Col. Franks's of the 10th reached me to day. I cannot particularly acknowledge the latter myself but beg you to give Love to him & communicate what you please of my Informations to him, only using the Precaution to seem both of you to be ignorant till you acquire ~~the~~ the Knowledge from the Emanations of the glutted malice of a Set who almost say they were sent from yr Quarter for this sole Purpose. They certainly act zealously in their mission, if such it was.

I have proceeded on the Powers but nothing decisive will be concluded till Tomorrow Evening.

- I wish Arthur may get some Item of these things before Gerard carries the whole Budget.

I have so much to write to Boston that I must now bid you, adieu, with an Assurance of being very affectionately Yours

J L

3 Secretaries are wanted. Time must shew whether the Choice of these [illegible] Devotees or Watchmen

Carmichael Houston & Brockhurst Livingston are hinted. I believe Dana wd go with Adams. B. L is Jays Brother in Law and now his Secretary. (No. 320) Jas. Lovell to R. H. Lee Sep. 27th 1779

I shall write only a short closing Speculation as Rowland. Many Vouchers may be used honorably in a Law Court which cannot be in a News Paper. The best Way is for all the Friends of the injured, at this Season, to be Silent; unless the opposite Party shall give fresh occasion. I will speedily attend to what you want but. I suggest to you the Propriety of my getting Tooke to translate all the french Vouchers which may be wanted so that he may swear to the Translation.

That we may have compleat Understanding of each others' opinions let us observe great Silence as to the Lights we get, in this Channel of our Correspondence. We shall have Room enough to quote others, I dare say.

Let yr. honest zealous past Endeavors be yr. Comfort tho Innocence & Worth have not been entirely defended by them

J L

No. XX. 269

Sir

I have lately heard what it is interesting to you to be apprised of.

It is said that Congreſs, having determined to appoint a Minister Plenipotentiary in Lieu of a Commissioner for the Court of Spain, did on the 27 of Sepr appoint J Jay who was in Nomination with you & one other; That on the 29th Mr Carmichael was chosen his Secretary; That Silas Deane has been arrested in yr Name.

A Friend to your merits

Philadelphia 28th. Septem 1779.

Dear Sir

I have not had the pleasure of writing to you since the 14th Inst. Yesterday I was honored with your Favors of the 12th. & 14th.

You have quite mistaken the motive for "Committing for consideration." the Motion was made by a very sincere Friend of yours, he had entertained hopes of bringing before the House a proper Report, a tolerable one was prepared, received & read, & Monday 21st. or 14th. I forget which, "set apart" for considering it in the House, but altho repeatedly called for, its unpleasantness, as I apprehend, proved a Bar against taking it up.

Your Friend did not think it quite perfect he had therefore prepared certain amendments which he would have brought on the Book & will still endeavor to make the whole appear to public view — you shall be particularly informed in due time.

You will have heard before this day of Count d'Estaing's arrival near Charles town South Carolina, that operations against the Enemy at Beaufort & Savanna were in hand; I expect every hour to hear of some important event in that quarter, probably the first intelligence will be brought by the Count himself who may be daily expected at Sandy hook or Rhode Island. Our Commander in Chief is properly authorized to co-operate vigorously with him — the Season of the Year was much against the Forces of our Ally to the Southward, a few days easterly wind with autumnal Rains would blast our prospect but I hope the weather has favored them.

Inclosed herein you will find a general account of three days work, it will be an exceedingly painful task to recite by & by the particulars, I shall make no comment I have acted one uniform & consistent part, dictated by Conscience for the good of my Country

as

185

as well as for doing justice to a meritorious individual — my wishes are not accomplished, I am nevertheless persuaded the day will come when that injured Individual will receive both Justice & honor from his Country.

By the next Post I shall determine whether ~~this~~ i- to leave Philadelphia this winter, & you shall if I determine to go, be informed precisely the day. at present time will not permit me to pay that respect to your favors now before me which is due, I must hasten to the square Room where I often meet many crack-ed things.

I pray God to bless you & intreat you to be assured that I continue with sincere Respect & Esteem

Dear Sir

Your obliged & Obedt. Servt

Henry Laurens.

P. S.

We have advices to be relied on
that the 2d. Division of Arbuthnot's
squadron 7. Ships of War having under
Convoy Transports containing about 4000. Troops
arrived this day se'nnight at New York
the Troops are said to be "wild Irish" & Africans.
the term wild Irish is repeated in several Letters.

12 o'Clock a circumstance has just
happened which renders a transmission
of the paper intended to have been
inclosed with certain Comments on it
inconsistent with my honor —
therefore I have withdrawn it —

The Honorable
R. H. Lee Esquire
Virginia.

Letters and other Papers
which regard Public
business —
H. Laurens

(No 331) Boston Sept 30 1779

My dear Friend

By Mr Lee, a young Gentn of your Country, I take the opportunity of conveying a Line to you principally to assure you, that altho' I have not written to you, I have not forgot you. My Time has been so much employd in many Affairs since I came to this Town. We are engagd in the arduous Business of forming a new Constitution, and I have the Pleasure of finding in the Convention ≠ met for that Purpose, a Number of young Gentlemen who I think will support the Virtue and Liberty of our Country. We have also the Abilities of our Friend Mr J.A. who is lately arrivd. I have lately receivd several Letters from my much esteemed Friend A L. They came to me by the Way of Philadelphia, and as Mr Lovel had my Consent to open them, I presume he has communicated the

the Contents to you. The Bearer waits. I will write to you when I shall be more at Leisure. Pay my friendly Regards to your Brother F. and to your & his Lady. In this Mrs A joyns me. Write to me by every Opportunity, & believe me to be

your affectionate Friend
S A

Hon R H. Lee Esqr

No. 2

Apl. 30. 1811

[illegible]

(~~Next.~~)
(No 321)

J. Adams
Sep: 30. '79
No. 5

[No 314] Passy Sept. 30. 1779.

Sir

I received but Yesterday Morning just as I was going out of Town; the Letter you did me the honour of writing to me dated the 26 Inst. respecting my supplying you with Money for your Support in Spain. As I cannot furnish that Expence, and there is not, in my Opinion, any likelihood at present of your being received at that Court, I think your Resolution of returning forthwith to America, is both wise & honest.

With great Respect, I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient
and most humble Servant

B Franklin

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

B. Franklin to A. Lee
Sep 30th 1779.

(No 314)

Sepr 30th 1779

1779

the day before yesterday it was no small
disapointement to me when I found that you
were most likely out of the towne. here inclosed
you'll find the writing you were so good as
to lend me for which I must return you my
best thankes as I was very well instructed &
entertained by it. I wish the event may in
the end prove agreable to your wishes. If I
may be of any service to you, be so good to
Let me know. I am now on my way to Paris

Where I hope to be in a week

I am with the Greatest regard & Esteem

Sir

your most humble

8^{ber} the 2^{d} 1775

Obedient Servant

Jarsfield

Dear Sir

Your Obliging favor of the 30th Ultimo

al one much for the Conduct of my Nephew, what

of the Uneasiness at the Occasion, is He to

what Can I do with Him?

(I am sorry to hear that the first great Actors in the great business in Hand have left their Seats in Congress this a bad Sign for the Common Cause. By a letter from Mr Carroll, I find He too has retired, He has written to me a very sensible Letter on the Subject of the Pamphlet entitled the Mode & Terms of an Accommodation &c His Ideas in general Concur with mine —) I am obliged to you for your Advice about the General. I know no English here I do not know, that any are worth it. but there is a person of your Acquaintance One most dearly yours, who I am told is or has been sometime hereabouts — I wish to find Him out, Let Him know that I am here — does that sad business at Cambray keep Him in these Quarters

Small Sums in Mr Grand's acct

	Power of Attorney &c &c	9
	Paid my Secretary for his Expences	2506,18,
	Capt Jones of the Providence for his Expences in bringing the Dispatches	347
included in my Expences not to Congress	On my receit	4800
	My order to Pelles	647,15
	Lafayette	1,680
	Schweighauser	240
	Newspapers … 60760	144
	~~On~~ my Receit	4000
	Expences of recovering the Duties wrongfully paid	23-3
	Letters Packets &c	9.

~~15080,16~~
~~1580,16~~
15080,16
10.441 — 6
4539, 10

Remaind in Mr Grand's hands
In mine 6241,6
4200
10441,6

I have thought that if these Gentlemen come over they will have other Powers than are declared, they may perhaps be Commissioners for Peace — the part which the publick Characters have taken Agst you is most Unwarrantable. Their Master for his Own

& Honour ought to discountenance their pro

— I am sorry you find yourself Embarrass'd

good Sense & Spirit will serve you better than thing I can say or do — however can you Communicate your Situation by a Letter? I am far from being in a good State of Health. I found myself ill all the time I was at Paris, which makes me hate it. I hope this place will agree with me — I take Exercise & live retired & think as little as possible. — remember me to your Nephew

Brussels.
Octr. 3. 1779.

I am Dear Sir
Yours Most Sincerely
Clement

P.S. be so good as to pay Mrs Berthaud.

avec un acharnement incroyable 2 heures & demie bord a-bord, de maniere que se trouvant accrochés ensemble sur tous les sens, on ne distinguoit n'y l'Ennemie, n'y l'Ami. Le feu prit dix fois au moins d'un bord a l'autre alternativement. Enfin l'Anglois amena. Il etoit tems, car notre Fregate foudroyée couloit bas et il falloit l'abandonner."

Liste des Prises faites pendant cette croisée, donnee dans la meme Lettre

3 prises Marchands estimées	400,000 tt
2 Prises Lettres de Marques chargées de Marchandises pour le Rois estimées ___	300,000
Le Serapis 44 Cannons	[redacted]
Le Comtesse Scarborough 20 do	[redacted]

Capt. Jones's Squadron was the

Bon-homme Richard ___	40 guns
The Alliance ___	36
The Pallas ___	32
The Vengeance ___	12

Extract of a Letter from Capt. Jones to Messrs. Gourlard & Moylan at L'Orient. Dated Texel Octr. 3d. 1779

"My situation was severe enough to have to deal with such an Enemy in such a dreadful situation — Judge then what it must have been when the Alliance came up towards the close of the action & instead of assisting me directed her whole fire against the Bon-homme Richard. The Alliance killed Eleven men & wounded an officer at one volley on the forecastle of the bon homme Richard."

Extract d'une Lettre du Capitaine Cottineau commandant le Corsaire de Nantes la Pallas, datée du Texel le 4 Octr. 1779

Le 23e 7bre a la hauteur du Cape Flamborough, nous rencontrames une flotte marchande de 40 voilles convoiée par deux fregattes en bons Citoyens. Nous donnames la préférence a celles, on n'eut de peine a les joindre car elles nous attendirent de pied ferme. Nota, que depuis deux jours nous avions rejoint L'Alliance, notre 3e fregatte, a 8 heures du soir, le combat s'engagea, M. de Jones notre Commendant, contre la plus forte, & Moi contre l'autre. Enfin au bout d'une heure je reduisis la mienne. Elle etoit aussi plus foible. Mais l'autre plus forte que M. de Jones combattit, ou plutot ils combattirent

Extrait d'une Lettre de l'Hon.ble John Paul Jones, Ecuyer, Commandant de la petite Escadre qui croisoit il y a quelque tems sur les côtes de la Grande Bretagne, à Benjamin Franklin Ecuyer à Passy, datée au bord du Serapis dans le Texel le 3.e Oct.re 1779.

Le 23.e Sep.re nous eumes connoissance d'une flotte; Flamborough head nous restant au N.N.E., cette circonstance me determina à abandonner les navires qui etoient à l'ancre dans la Baie de Burlington, et je hissai le signal pour une chasse générale; lorsque la flotte apperçut que nous portions sur elle, tous les Navires Marchands firent force de voile pour gagner le rivage; les deux vaisseaux de guerre qui les protégeoient s'eloignerent au contraire de la terre et se disposerent au combat; en approchant de l'ennemi toutes voiles dehors, je fis le signal pour former la ligne de battaille; mais quelqu'empressé que je fusse d'engager le combat, je ne pus atteindre qu'a 7 heures du soir le vaisseau du Commodore; lorsque j'en fus à la portée du pistolet, il hêla le Bon Homme Richard, nous lui repondimes par une bordée complete, le combat commencé ainsi, se continua avec une fureur egal de part et d'autre, chaque parti mettant en usage tous les moyens possibles de se procurer la position la plus avantageuse pour enfiler son adversaire. Je suis forcé de convenir que le vaisseau Ennemi, ayant des manœuvres infiniment superieures à celles du Bon Homme Richard, gagna diverses fois, par ce moyen, des situations avantageuses, malgré

tous

tous les efforts que je pouvois faire pour l'empecher; comme j'avois a faire a un ennemi d'une force très supérieure, je me trouvois dans la necessité de le tenir au plus près, pour compenser l'avantage qu'il avoit sur moi a l'egard des manœuvres; mon intention etoit de placer le Bon homme Richard par le travers de l'avant du vaisseau Ennemi; mais comme cette operation demandoit beaucoup d'adresse dans la manière de diriger et les voiles et le gouvernail, comme d'ailleurs les bras de quelques unes de nos vergues etoient deja emportés, ce dessein ne me réussit pas exactement. Le beaupré de l'ennemi ayant été porté près de la dunette du Bon Homme Richard derrière le mât d'artimon, je saisis le moment pour attacher les vaisseaux l'un a l'autre; alors l'action des vents sur les voiles de l'ennemi ayant porté son arrière sur l'avant du Bon Homme Richard, les deux vaisseaux se touchèrent dans toute leur etendue de l'avant a l'arrière, leurs vergues se croiserent, et les bouches de leurs canons portèrent réciproquement sur les flancs opposés. Il etoit près de huit heures du soir lorsque nous nous trouvames dans cette position; avant ce moment la le Bon Homme Richard avoit reçu plusieurs boulets de 18 au dessous de sa flottaison, et faisoit beaucoup d'eau; ma batterie de 12 liv de balle, sur laquelle je comptois le plus, commandée par le Lieutenant Dale, et le Col. Weibert, servie en majeure partie par des matelots americains et des Volontaires françois etoit entièrement reduite au silence et abandonnée. Quant au six canons de 18 liv de balle qui

qui formaient la batterie du premier pont, ils ne m'ont rendu aucun service, ils ont tiré 8 coups en tout, et au premier feu deux de ces pièces en crevant ont tués presque tous les hommes destinés a les servir.

Avant cette même époque, le Cap.ne de Chamillard qui commandait un poste de 20 soldats placés sur la dunette, avoit abandonné ce poste après avoir perdu tous ses gens a l'exception de cinq.

Il ne me restait alors que deux Canons de 9 liv. de balle qui fussent en état de jouer, ils étoient placés sur le gaillard
by the stern deck opposite the forecastle
d'arrière, et pendant le reste de l'action, nous n'avons fait usage d'un seul Canon de gros calibre. Le Sieur Mean bournier du vaisseau, qui commandoit les canons sur les gaillards d'arrière, ayant reçu une blessure dangereuse a la tête, je fus obligé de le remplacer; j'eus beaucoup de peine a rallier quelques uns de nos gens; je fis passer a tribord un Canon de la Batterie, sous le vent, en sorte que nous eumes 3 pièces de 9 liv. de balle a faire jouer sur l'ennemi. Pendant toute la durée du combat le feu de cette petite batterie ne fut secondé que par celui que nos gens faisoient des hunes, surtout de la grande, où le Lieutenant Slack commandoit. Je dirigeai contre le grand mât de l'ennemi le feu d'un des 3 canons, chargé a boulets ramés, tandis que les deux autres, entièrement bien servis, tiroient a mitraille pour faire taire la mousqueterie du vaisseau

ennemi et faire evacuer ses ponts, ce qui fut enfin effectué; j'ai appris depuis qu'a ce moment l'ennemi etoit sur le point de demander quartier, lorsque la lacheté ou la perfidie de trois de mes officiers subalternes, les engagea eux mêmes a la demander de l'ennemi; Le Commodore Anglois me demanda si je demandois quartier? Comme je lui repondis en negative de la manière la plus absolue, ils recommencerent le combat avec un redoublement de fureur; ils n'etoient point en etat de tenir ferme sur leur ponts, mais le feu de leur Canon, particulierement celui de leur batterie basse entierement composée des pieces de 18 liv de balles, etoit continuel; les deux vaisseaux etoient en feu en plusieurs endroits, et le spectacle qu'ils offroient l'un et l'autre etoit effroyant au dela de toute expression.

Pour vous rendre raison de la timidité que marquerent mes trois officiers subalternes, c'est a dire, le maitre Canonier, le maitre Charpentier, et le Capitaine d'armes, je dois vous observer que les deux premiers etoient dangereusement blessés. Comme le vaisseau avoit reçu plusieurs boulets au dessous de sa flottaison, et comme une des pompes avoit été emportée, le maitre Charpentier l'imaginoit qu'il craignoit qu'il ne coula bas, ce dont les deux autres conclurent qu'ils couloient bas effectivement. En consequence le maitre Canonier couroit a la poupe, a mon insu, pour amener le pavillon: heureusement pour moi il

y

y avait long temps qu'un boulet en effet fait l'office en emportant l'enseigne; alors il se vit reduit a la neceſsité de demander quartier, et il le fit effectivement.

Pendant tout ce temps la le Bon Homme Richard avait soutenu seul le combat; et l'ennemi, quoique de force bien superieure, eut été bien aise de pouvoir se degager, ainsi qu'il paroit par son propre aveu, et par le soin qu'il avait eu de larguer une ancre au moyen de laquelle il eut pu s'echapper si je n'eusse pris la precaution de le lier fortement au Bon Homme Richard. Enfin a neuf heures et demie du soir l'Alliance parut et je crus le combat fini; mais a mon grand etonnement, elle lâcha une bordée entiere dans l'arriere du Bon Homme Richard; nous lui conjurames au nom de Dieu de ne point tirer sur nous, elle n'en paſsa pas moins bord a bord de notre vaiſseau; tout ce que nous avions de voix lui crierent qu'elle prenoit un vaiſseau pour l'autre, rien ne peut l'empecher, elle paſsa autour de nous, faisant feu sur l'avant, sur l'arriere par le travers; une seule de ses bordées tua onze de mes hommes les plus utiles et bleſsa mortellement un bon officier; ma situation etait reellement deplorable; le Bon Homme Richard reçut de l'Alliance plusieurs boulets au deſsous de sa flottaison les pompes ne suffisoient pas a etancher les voies d'eau et les flammes augmentoient a bord des deux vaiſseaux: quelques officiers dont j'ai une bonne opinion a l'egard de de leur courage et de leurs bonnes intentions, tenterent de me persuader d'amener. Mon Capitaine d'armes lacha, a mon insu, tous mes prisonniers, et il faut avouer que ma perspective devient facheuse en ce moment, mais je ne voulus point abandonner la partie.

Le grand mât de l'ennemi commençoit a chanceler son feu diminua rapidement; le notre au contraire devint un peu plus vif: enfin a 10 heures et demie du soir le vaisseau ennemi amena pavillon. C'etoit le Serapis vaisseau de guerre Anglois, commandé par le brave Commodore Richard Pearson, vaisseau neuf montant 44 Canons, construit après le modele le plus estimé, ayant deux batteries complettes, dont l'une de de canons de 18 liv. de balle.

Extract of a Letter from Capt. Pearson of his Majesty's Ship Serapis to Mr Stevenson dated Texel Octr 6th 1779)

After exchanging two or three broadsides he backed his topsails, & dropp'd upon our quarter within pistol shot then filled again put his helm a weather, & run us on board upon our weather quarter, & attempted to board us but being repulsed he sheer'd off; upon which I backed our topsails in order to get square with him again, which as soon as he observed, he then filled, put his helm a weather, & laid us athwart hawse; his mizen shrouds took our jib-boom, which hung him for some time, till it at last gave way, & we dropt

alongside of each other, head & stern, when the fluke of our spare anchor hooking her quarter, we became so close fore & aft, that the muzzles of our guns touched each others sides. In this position we engaged from half past eight to half past ten, during which time from the great quantity & variety of combustible matters which they threw in upon our decks, chains & in short into every part of the Ship, we were on fire not less than ten or twelve times in different parts of the Ship & it was with the greatest difficulty & exertion imaginable at times that we were able to get it extinguished. At the same time the largest of the two frigates kept sailing round us the whole action & kept raking us fore & aft, by which means she killed & wounded almost every man on the quarter & main decks. At half past nine either from a hand Grenade being thrown in at one of our lower deck ports, or from some other accident, a cartridge of powder was set on fire, the flames of which running from cartridge to cartridge all the way aft, blew up the whole of the people & officers that were quartered abaft the mainmast, from which unfortunate ~~gun~~ circumstance all those guns were rendered useless for the remainder of the action, & I fear the greatest part of the people will lose their lives. At ten o'clock they called for quarters from the Ship alongside cried they had struck; hearing this, I called upon the Capt. to know if they had struck, or if he asked for quarter, but no answer being made after repeating my words two or three times, I called for the boarders & ordered them to board wch they did; but the moment they were on board her they discovered a superior number lying under cover with pikes in their hands ready to receive them, on which our people retreated instantly into our own Ship & returned to their guns again till half past ten, when the frigate coming acroſs our stern & pouring her broadside into us again, without our being able to bring a gun to bear on her, I found it in vain, & in short impracticable, from the situation we were in, to stand out any longer with the least prospect of succeſs. I therefore struck (our mainmast at the same time went by the board). The first Lieutenant & myself were immediately escorted into the Ship alongside, when we found her to be an American Ship of war, called the Bon Homme Richard of 40 guns & 375 men, commanded by Capt. Paul Jones; the other frigate which engaged us, to be the alliance of 40 Guns & 300 men, & the third frigate which engaged & took the Counteſs of Scarborough after two hours action to be the Pallas French frigate of 32 Guns & 273 men, the Vengeance an armed brig of 12 Guns & 70 men all in Congreſs service & under the command of Paul Jones.

Extract of a Letter from Capt. Jones to Messrs. Moylan & Gourlade at L'Orient dated Texel Octr. 3d. 1779.

My situation was severe enough to have to deal with such an Enemy in such a dreadful situation. Judge then what it must have been when the Alliance came up towards the close of the action & instead of assisting me fired her whole fire against the Bon Homme Richard. The Alliance killed eleven men & wounded an officer at one volley on the forecastle of the Bon Homme Richard.

Extrait d'une Lettre du Capitaine Cottineau commandant le Corsaire de Nantes le Pallas datée du Texel le 4 Octr. 1779

Le 22e Sept. a la hauteur du Cap Flamborough nous rencontrames une flotte Marchande de 40 voiles convoiée par deux frégates en bons Citoyens. Nous donnames la préferance a celles-ci, on n'eut de peine a les joindre, car elles nous attendirent de pied ferme. Nota, que depuis deux jours nous avons rejointe l'Alliance, notre 3me frégate, a 8 heures du soir le combat s'engagea, M. de Jones notre Commandant, contre la plus forte, et moi contre l'autre. Enfin au bout d'une heure je reduisis la mienne. Elle etait aussi plus foible. Mais l'autre plus forte que M. de Jones combattit ou plutot ils combattirent avec un acharnement incroyable 2 heures et demie bord a bord, de manière que tenant accrochés ensembles sur tous les sens, on ne

distinguoit ni l'ennemi ni l'ami. Le feu prit dix fois au moins d'un bord a l'autre alternativement. En fin l'Anglois amena. Il etoit tems car notre frégate foudroyée couloit bas et il fallut l'abandonner.

Liste des prises faites pendant cette croisière, donnée dans la même lettre.

3 prises Marchandes estimées - - -	400,000 ll
2 prises Lettres de Marque chargées de Marchandises pour le Roy estimées	300,000

Le Serapis 44 Canons

La Comtesse de Scarborough 20 D°

Capt Jones Squadron was the

Bon Homme Richard	40 Guns
The Alliance - - - -	36
The Pallas	32
The Vengeance -	12

L'Orient Octr 4th 1779

Recd your favour of the 28th Sept with the Inclosed which you may depend on my care of as well as the precaution you recommend. I am sincerely obliged to you for writing in my favour to the Governor & be assured you'l never have cause to Repent your recommendation. we are to sail tomorrow

Wishing you health & every Blessing & that your Arms may Prove Triumphant over all your Enemys is the sincere wish of

Sir

Your very Hble & Obedt Servt

John Harris

Please to give my Sincere Respects to Commodore Gillon should he be in Paris

Extracts from Dr Franklins Letters to Congress.

To his Exy John Jay Esqr

Passy Octr 4th 1779

I received the Letter your Excellency did me the honor to write to me of the   of June last, enclosing an Act of Congress respecting Bills of Exchange for 2,450,000 Livres tournois, drawn on me in favor of Mr De Beaumarchais. The Bills have not yet appeared, but I shall accept them when they do, relying on the care of Congress to enable me to pay them. As to the Accounts of that Gentleman, neither the Commissioners when we were all together, nor myself since, have ever been able to obtain a sight of them, tho' repeatedly promised; & I begin to give over all expectation of them.

And as to the private Loans expected, I wrote in a former letter that our public Credit was not yet sufficiently established, & that the Loan in Holland had not exceeded 80,000 Florins, to which there has since been no addition.

The Honble Saml Huntington Esqr. Passy March 4th 1780.

The disposition of this Court continues as favorable as ever, tho' it cannot comply with all our demands. The Supplies required in the Invoice sent me by the Committee, appeared too great & numerous to be immediately furnished. Three Millions of Livres were however granted me, with which after deducting what will be necessary to pay the Interest Bills & the late Drafts of Congress, I could not venture on ordering more than 10,000 Suits of Clothes. With these we shall have 15,000 Arms & Accoutrements. A good deal of Clothing goes over in the Alliance, purchased by Mr Ross, which is computed may make 7 or 8000 with more. But altho' we have not obtained that Invoice of Goods, this Court being at immense Expence in the preparations for next Campaign, I have reason to believe that a part of those preparations will be employed in essential Assistance to the United States, & I hope effectual, tho' at present I cannot be more particular.

I have sent to Mr Johnson the Votes of Congress relative to the settlement of the Accounts. He has expressed his readiness to enter on the Service. Mr Deane is soon expected here, whose presence is very necessary, & I hope with his help they may be gone through without much difficulty. I could have wished it had suited Mr Lee to have been here at the same time.

Extract from a Letter Signed B. Franklin & addressed to the Honble the Committee for Foreign Affairs

Passy May 26th 1779.

I would add a little remark that we have in America too readily in various instances given faith to the pretensions of Strangers from Europe, who offer their Services, as Persons who have powerful friends & great Interest in their own Country, & by that means obtain Contracts, Orders or Commissions to procure what we want, & who when they come here are totally unknown & have no other Credit but what such Commissions give them; or if known, the Commissions do not add so much to their Credit as they diminish that of their Employers.

Dear Sir

I receiv'd yesterday Madam [illegible]
's Note to your Nephew, which had been
Boulogn — I am much alarm'd, pray
tell me what complaints are made against John
[illegible], and advise [illegible] what to do.

Brusselles
Febr 6. 1779

I am Dear Sir
Yours Sincerely
Edm. Jenings

Monsieur

Il semble que M. Rodney a pris le sept janvier à la hauteur du cap finisterre un convoi marchand qui de St Sebastien allait à Cadix escorté d'un vaisseau de la Compagnie de Caracas de 60 canons et de quelques frégates. C'est au moins ce qu'ils ont publié dans les gazettes, et la chose est très vraisemblable. Nous avons avis de Madrid que le 16 l'escadre Angloise étoit arrivée sur le cap St Vincent, où Langara avoit été jeté par un coup de vent avec 8 vaisseaux; qu'il fut ataqué par les Anglois et qu'il se retira vers Cadix en se battant en retraite, que le combat dura après deux heures et demie du 16 jusqu'à deux heures et demie de la matinée du 17; que le vaisseau Espagnol St Dominique fut incendié et sauta en l'air; qu'il est deux vaisseaux Anglois entrés à Lisbonne très maltraités et quelques autres à Gibraltar; que le Convoi Anglois devoit être poussé dans la Méditerranée ou au moins partie de vaisseaux ce queue maltraitée, et qu'on en voioit d'autres de guerre vers l'ocean. Des vaisseaux Espagnols il en etoit sauvé 6, et toutes les fregates: mais il en manquoit comme quatre vaisseaux, parce que outre les 8 qu'avoit Langara lors du combat, un coup de vent lui en avoit detaché trois avant l'arrivée des Anglois.

Voila Monsieur ce que je puis vous mander tout à la hate dans le moment que je me leve de table. Je suis votre tres humble et tres obeisant serviteur

de Giradin

Havre 7th october 1777

Dear Sir

I am to acknowledge the Receipt of a precious favor from you, which in all times would have been very dear to me but was the more welcome that very few american letters are arriv'd into my hands— from your worthy Brother, from Dr Franklin's dispatches, from my own letters to Congress you will receive any european intelligence that is worth mentionning— I will then, my dear Sir employ the little time that is given to me for my letter, in assuring you again of the taste I have of your friendship for me, which I deserve by the most sincere attachment.

The honorable Richard henry lee esq. member of congress

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be pleas'd, my dear sir, to make my complimens acceptable to yr Brothers, Mrs Samuel and John Adams, Dr Witherspoone, all my friends in Congress and the City whom you very well know.

I am sorry that circumstances in which I hope you will approve of my conduct, have prevented me from being a witness of such successes as count d'Estaing's arrival has certainly brought on — I wish you might be in Congress on the reading of my public letter — I give a little hint of the warm desire I have of seeing again on the american shores — But whatever may be count d'Estaing's operation, it will perhaps bring on ~~agaain~~ again some ideas, which should more properly be call'd yours, but which I dare call mine, by the great delight I had taken in them — in all cases, if some thing is done, I'll be very happy to learn in America.

My private circumstances are in this part of the world as agreable as the most wishing heart may any way desire — But I will be very happy in sailing again for America, and wish fortune could bring on such an event.

With the most sincere affection I have the honor to be

Dear Sir
Yours
Lafayette

La Fayette
7 Oct. 1779

a Monsieur

Monsieur Arthur Lee

rue des Bons enfants Palais royale hotel
de la Reine

a Paris

Secretary to Spanish
Ambaſsy

11 Oct 79

Mr de Heudi a fait ses complimens a Monsieur Lee, et a l'honneur de lui dire qu'il se propose de passer chez lui ce matin a onze heures.

ce 11 Oct. 1779.

11 Oct '79?

– mention, I suppose,

. I heard last night

then about to set
out, & that he was to be accompanied
by one of your Colleagues.
I shall send you a Letter by
the time you mention, & shall
be obliged to you if you will
forward it with your own.

Yours &c R. J.

Wednesday Morning.

Philadelphia 12th. October 1779.

My Dear Sir.

Since my last Letter to you under the 28th. September I have not been honored with any of your favors, nor from a former intimation, could I have expected to hear from you.

We remain without any addition to the first advice of Count d'Estaing's arrival near Georgia, this circumstance detains me in Philadelphia, which I cannot conveniently depart from, until I shall have seen & conversed with the Young Gentleman lately appointed Secretary to the Embassy at Versailles, I mean to give him a faithful unbiassing account of Foreign & domestically transacted Foreign affairs & leave him to judge & determine, if he reads my heart he will return thanks & decline acceptance.

You will receive with this a Copy of the Journal containing the Yeas & Nays formerly spoken of, the different principles alluded to by a Note in the Margin were — J— thought 10 or 15. by far too little — L— was of opinion that *any thing* would be too much. The Report for which a certain Monday was "*set apart*" remains unconsidered & probably will remain so to the day of Judgment. Yesterday I received Packets & Letters ten in number directed to your self & Colo. F. L. Lee from France which I have delivered to Mr. Lovel who has shewn me Copies of two which will be read this Morning in Congress, I shall move to have them printed, if refused, & I can obtain Copies, they shall be printed — Mr. Lovel will enlarge on these points. The P.S. to my Letter above recited informs you that I had paused upon the propriety of transmitting a Paper which had been inclosed, upon mature reflection & considering circumstances which have since happened I see nothing improper in it, therefore I shall inclose it with this in its original state, probably it may at this distance of time convey no information.

The

The Salaries to Ministers Plenipo: £2500. Sterl. ꝑ Ann. to their Secretaries £1000 — in full of all expences &c. Passages excepted. I moved for £2000. & £700. & was uniformly no! against every thing higher. the motives & reasoning I trust will meet the approbation of my thinking Fellow Citizens — we have made the appointments where are the friends? Mr. Carmichael had no competitor, but I refused my Vote; upon proper reflection I am persuaded he himself will applaud my candor. I will take the liberty of adding my judgement.

He who had repeatedly acknowledged that he had called an American Minister in Office a Rascal & did not deny that he had called him Villain too & said he would display his Villainy to Congress, must have been either right or wrong. I need not deduce the logical conclusion, I think I have acted as if I understood it. . . .

The two Legs are made Ult: but yesterday there was a proposition for reconsidering & expunging the Southernmost, I opposed & after an hours debate, adjourned — we shall hear more of it to day, I told ~~it~~ the advocate for expunction, I had long since heard every word he had offered in support of his motion — out of doors. —

The Confederacy is still at Chester her Passengers will embark in the course of this Week.

God bless you my Dear Sir, have patience & all things will work together in support of honesty & truth.

I am with sincere Esteem & regard
Your obedient & most humb. Servt
Henry Laurens.

I have heard some people impudently talk of meanness in a —— but I have not in my life seen more marks of wicked meanness than has been for some days past displayed by a monosyllable. —

The Honorable
Richard Hy. Lee Esquire
Virginia.

H. Laurens

Order of Congress respecting Gl. Lee's treatment —

Two int: letters from Gl. Lee; one concerning the address of Congress in 75 & the other respg the enemy's operations in Va

Letter of R. H. Lee to Dr [illegible] respg the hospital

Dr Rush to R. H. L.

A very int: letter from Dr A. Lee in 74 — pourtraying N. Lord

Lee

— Letters of H Laurens

161

Virginia 12 October 1779

Your 145 a x x i r s have triumphed at last, 421 a x x m [illegible] & [illegible] the tide of 315 a r s they have fairly 1240 x x x m d out the 1706 x r s of 295 e r r & their 107 6 x x x. By various manoeuvres & after repeated & frustrated attempts to recall one was fallen upon that succeeded. Jay of 99 a x r 11 is to go 202 a x x r 1 to 340 a x x 1 r Mr [illegible] 451 a r r s is to 25 3 6 r m the 272 6 a with J. B. when that comes on — I sent your 214 a r 1 long since to philadelphia to be examined, as to presentation, to Americas best friends, & it was determined to 42 a x x r 1 - 191, 6 r m it until it was seen how 99 a x r 11 would act in 115 6 x x x r m's affair — In the mean time the above manoeuvre took place — I believe it will now be presented. Your best friends are of opinion that you should come immediately over & before 90 a x r 11 demand a full hearing & a complete vindication — If it is 30 9 a x r d the 399 a x x r will, on 1n 480 6 r do right to the injured — In your letter to Loudoun of May 28 last, you deliver a sentiment that is perfectly just, that in a free country like ours there is no disgracing a man who is shielded by innocence & evidence — far less can a wicked faction do any such thing. Bad men may impose for a time, but cannot stand against the truth fairly displaied & properly enforced. our 170 6 x x r, 99 6 x x r, will carry 453 a 1 x 1 r & perhaps 115 6 x x x r 11) home, by our 315 6 x x r you & Ludwell may 315 6 x x x r here — These two men have been most intimate here & tho constantly declaring for many months past that they must depart in a few days yet they never stirred untill their 205 in was 173 a x x 1 x 50 & now [illegible] I suppose, as a certain [illegible], they are glutted even to satiety with revenge) they will realy go. Wisdom & perseverence are excellent qualities to secure success & to vanquish finally all wicked combination. If you can, I would advise you to land at Portsmouth in New hampshire where I am persuaded you will be, well received at that place — [illegible] you will have an opportunity of seeing General Warren & Samuel Adams Esqr with other virtuous friends of America, who loving their country [illegible] honor its able & virtuous Citizens — You will thus have an opportunity of seeing a valuable part of this union which you have not yet been personally acquainted with. Mr [illegible] Adams, since his arrival here (before he came) has in his Letters (for he has not been at Congress) done great justice to your character — The above business was determined in Congress before the arrival of the Chevalier de la Luzerne. he has since arrived at Philadelphia. The Virginia Delegates in Congress are James Mercer! Wm Fitzhugh of Chatham! Flemming! Cyrus Griffin! [illegible]

I wish that Mr Wm Lee & Mr Izard would come with you

Virginia 12 Oct 1779 farewell

162 bxx11 - 365 bxx+11 - 7 a+11

99 aX+11 neglected for very obvious reasons to publish your 392 bXXX+11 but I expect to get it done immediately Leaving out such parts as might be improper on account of 167 aXX+1. 207 aXo — An honorable Member of Congress says he doubts not but that your Country will yet do you honor — I think so too — A temperate, firm, and wise conduct is only necessary —

N.º 4.

Honorable Arthur Lee esquire
at

Paris.

Dear Sir, Chantilly October 13. 1779

Omit

I am very much obliged to you for your favor of the 2d of September and for the trouble you took in writing a copy of the letter I wrote to you by Mr. Ford. I was well apprized that nothing in it which is mine could be made an ill use of, but to remedy this, something not mine and not in the letter is substituted for the purpose of misrepresentation. As thus that "R. H. Lee had written to the Governor of Virginia that Mons. Gerard was recalled because he opposed Dr. Lee" — My expression is "The latter (Gerard) being recalled — it is supposed — for his factious support of Deane against Lee" A very proper reason too, and which I verily believe to be true, and which would be as true altho Dr. Lee existed not. It is sufficient that there is no such thing as is asserted in my letter, and it serves further to shew that a certain Set neither regard truth or any thing else when opposed to their calumnious bad designs. I beg your pardon my dear Sir for having given you a moments trouble on this occasion. I did not mean to do so, my design was only to prevent in future this mode of misrepresentation, and it is effectually done by your information that writing "private" on the letters intended to be so, would prevent public inspection.

I hope, when the Assembly is preparing a system of laws for our future felicity, that they will not neglect that noble and best foundation for public liberty, general diffusion of knowledge, for which you had left with the House so excellent a System. By the last Post I am informed from Congress that an Embarkation of Troops from N. York had taken place with Teams &c. — supposed for a second Southern expedition — In the last Baltimore paper it is said, that a Fleet for the Southward with Troops was returned to N. York — I take this account to mean the embarkation mentioned to me from Congress, and that if they had put back, it was in consequence of hearing that Count D'Estaing was upon the Coast I am satisfied that nothing else but his being here will prevent our being visited this Fall by these Devils (for I can call by no other name Men deliberately wicked) from N. York. I wish we were better prepared to meet them. Mr. Le Maire told me that there were 8000 stand of Arms belonging to our State in Nantes. They would be a glorious acquisition if we had them — There is already one Continental frigate in France (the Alliance) another (the Confederacy) will soon be there, would it not be possible to obtain from Congress an order that one or both of these frigates should bring these Arms over and to Virginia? Such is the backwardness of people to engage in the Military that we have yet obtained but two men in Westmoreland upon both the acts "for raising a body of Troops &c." and that "concerning Officers, Soldiers, Sailors & Marines" — The one obtained under the former law is delivered to me and I have provided with a Man to find him rations 'till further orders — I think there was in the Gazette some time ago an Advertisement from the Board of war mentioning Urbanna as the place of Rendezvous for this County — Would it be proper for me to order these two men there or wait until we see if more can be obtained? It will be some expence to get the men conveyed thither, and this will be nearly as great for one as for 20. I think that the accession of Spain to our Union must quickly close the Scene with our enemies — 'Tis amusing enough to see how the scene is changed already with them — The British kings proclamation to the Wardens of the Cinque ports to be watchful to drive away the Stocks &c. from the Sea coasts as he learns an invasion of the kingdom is meditated — He begins to taste the unpleasantness of that treatment which he has been so long inflicting upon us.

I have the honor to be with particular esteem dear Sir your affectionate friend

Richard Henry Lee

(No 322) Octr. 13. 1779

Sir

This is officially to convey to you the Knowledge of the Appointment of a Minister plenipotentiary in lieu of a Commiſsioner at the Court of Spain; and also a Resolve of Congreſs of this Day upon the Reading of your Letter of the 31st of May. Mr. Jay will probably be in a ſhort time in Europe to execute his Commiſsion.

I am
Sir
your most humble
Servant
James Lovell
for the Comtee of
forn Affairs

1779

(No 322)

~~norable~~

norable
Arthur Lee Esqr

my Recall

Col. Valfour
Rue Sains Maur
hôtel de Juendthac
Jn millia

Received Decr 25th

(No 315)

In Congreſs Octr. 13. 1779

A letter of 31 May last from A Lee was read, Whereupon

Resolved That Mr. A Lee be informed of Mr Jay's appointment, and that agreeably to his request he is at Liberty to return to America

Extract from the minutes

Cha Thomson secy.

Memd.

I waited on Dr.
Franklin on the
27th Decr. & informed
him of my having
received leave from
Congress to return, &
asked his commands
He told me he had
dispatches to send
& that he hoped I
might go in the
Confederacy or the
Alliance

Decr. 8th. 1779

(No 315)

Leave to Mr. A. Lee
to return home of date
Octr. 13 1779
signed Chs. Thompson

Richard Henry Lee Esqr. (No. 324)

My Dear Br.

Frankfort in Germany 14. Oct. 1779

I have not recd. any letter from you for 18 Months & shall therefore have none to answer. By this opty. of the Honble. Ralph Izard Esqr. our Br. Arthur Lee sends you all the papers relative to the Cannon arms &c that we obtain'd from the French Ministry & that he advanced some of the Public money to purchase for the state of Virginia; which I must beg you to get settled by the Assembly & remittances made to pay for them; as we stand gua=rantee, being the agents, for their demand, of the French Ministry to the amount of 219489 Livres 7 Sols & 4 Deniers, the payment they have already demanded & now I should not be surprized if they were to glut their resentment against us for being ho=nest to our Country, by using force & violence under the pretext of a Just demand. My Br. also under a power from me stands bound for the paymt. of the freight to the amount of abt. 27000 Livres which the owners of the vessels want extremely. I have written by this conveyance, of Sept. 28 Ulto. to the present Governor Jefferson on this business which letter I presume you may see, & pointed out the address at the several ports in Europe for such vessels as the State may send out; but at same time the persons into whose hands the vessels may fall should be directed to follow my orders relative to the disposal of the Cargoes & the application of the produce.

I presume the State will not object to allow me as the regularly appd. Agent by the late Governor Henry, the usual comn. of 5 p.Ct. which has been charged on almost all the Congress business done in Europe. If this is done & the State business continued under my direction, as soon as any remittances are made, to put it in my power, I shall willingly do what Col. Mason desires] as you will see by copies of his Letters now sent to our Br. F. L. L. —— Without something of this sort is done, 'twill be impossible for me to comply with Col. Mason's request as I have not the means. Your 4 pieces of Linen were sent from Nantes last spring in the Governor Livingston Capt. Gale who carried the Cannon &c for the State of Virginia; [& now my means, are not more than will support my family, with great frugality & economy for 15 Months, I am obliged to send your Son Thom: to Virginia & have wrote him to take his passage in the first good vessel, I shall write again by your Son, but in the mean time if you find it is in any manner practicable to contrive us any remittances from the Estate we shall be uncommonly obliged to you; the disagreeableneſs of our situation, almost pennyleſs, in a strange Country, strange Language, & without Friends or acquaintances, with two little children & another to come this Winter, your own feelings will paint to you more forcibly than I can describe. It appears to me that it wd. be much better to give double freight to a small Virga. veſsel than to any french veſsel whatever even if she is cover'd with Cannon. With respect to selling the [illegible] Estate there is now, no public reason against it, on the contrary, after the most signal & almost unheard of injustice that has been done me, my feelings must be as base & abandon'd as theirs, if I wish'd to live under their Control.

You have then only to consider, if the power you have recd. is sufficient for the purpose & if the Sale can be made to any advantage or without too great a loſs. In this case, if it can be so done, I heartily wish that it may be so, without any delay. The money recd. in payment, after being check'd to be aſsured against Forgery, shou'd be kept lock'd up & neither lent to Public or Private until you hear from me. [Mr. James Lovell in the name of the Comee. has sent me a short letter (just recd.) saying, that C. had recall'd me, but that I need not repair to America. This is all I know formally. Had this proceeding iſsued from the Divan of Constantinople, or directly from the Cabinet of Versailles, I shou'd not have been surprised, but that the representatives of a free People shou'd permit themselves to be made the instruments of a little contemptible Commee to hear an accusation against a confidential Servant of the Public, most of which their own records & proceedings prove to be false, & without hearing that Person's defence, or even letting him know that he was accused, to proceed to Judgemt. & criminal Condemnation, is a procedure that future historians will perhaps hardly believe; or at least, will find much difficulty to account for. Is it poſsible that the affairs of America can be in such a state as to make it neceſsary in order to avoid being conquer'd by England, to deliver yourselves up formally as the voluntary Slaves of France? My heart bleeds at the Idea, especially as I cou'd open to you such deep plans of villainy & destruction that are plotting against you as wou'd make your hair stand up with astonishment. Your Salvation in my opinion must arise from an Union more strict than ever with New England.

All Europe has resounded the summer past with the invincible strength of the combin'd Fleets & the numerous Army, that was at a mouthful to swallow up England, Scotland & Ireland, all which has ended in taking the Ardent of 64 Guns, with the loſs of above ten thousand men dead in the fleets with diseases

, above £4,000,000. Sterg taken from the Spaniards in prizes, 3 french East Indiamen & other prizes to the value of abt. £2,000,000 Sterg more, while every English fleet has arriv'd safe, except what has been taken ~~from~~ by the Americans, some of them only convoy'd by a single Frigate. Now the English fleet is fully able to face the combin'd fleets & in the Spring will be much stronger, so that the superiority in the West Indias will be easily recover'd. From these facts, on the truth of which you may rely, you can judge as well as me what little probability there is of Peace this winter, especially as from the prizes & the riches of the East Indias, now all their own, England can raise above 20,000,000£ Sterg for the next years supplies without borrowing one shilling from Foreigners, & the spirit of all parties to repel the threaten'd invasion has been such, as to put into the Kings hands between 30 & 40,000 new troops, exclusive of the militia, which troops I much fear, at least in great part, will be employed next year in America. The Parliament meets in five weeks & from the Speech we may judge something of their intentions.] My Br. L. L. L. has directions how to inclose any letters for me & if any friend chooses to consign any vessel or Cargoe to me in any of the Dutch, Flanders or Prussian Ports, they may depend on my care & attention, as I shall leave this place with my tribe in 4 or 5 daies for Bruxelles in Flanders where I shall stay as long as I can, being convenient to Holland & the seaports of Flanders, or until something eligible offers elsewhere.

My whole Family send you & yours their sincerest Loves with the truest affection, esteem & friendship I remain Yours, W. L.

Wm Lee
Oct. 14th 1779
(No 324)

W. Lee
14 Octr 1775

private

Dear Sir   Oct 14th 1779

Mr Bonfield on the 30th of June & 22d of July wrote to us and forwarded many Letters from you one only of which was new — a Letter of May 31 which was read in Congreſs Octr 13th and produced an Entry somewhat palliative in regard to the Doings of Sep. 27 I know not whether you was in France at the Time Mr Bonfield wrote. I had been hoping that you would finish yr Commiſsion in Spain before Mr Jay's Voyage could be compleated. The late Conduct of the Court of Madrid ſeemed to give a fair opening for it. I lament the Length of Time between the Dates & Receipt of yr Letters. I was ſure that if you found yr Ability to ſerve us to be in ſuch impaired by the malignant Proceeding of Deane & the unbecoming Tameneſs of those who ought to have ſhewn themselves, the Patrons & Guardians of yr Honor, you would tell us so, and make way for a Succeſsor. Your Letter of May 31st was listened to with gravity, and commented upon with Approbation as well by former Cons as by constant Pros. Mercer owned he conceived new Ideas of you, and he looked Repentance. He has a curious Correspondent, a Brother of the ſame name

in France who is very ready wth
his Opinions on our Affairs there.
I would have you know his real
Business. It has been hinted to me
that he is in Pay as a Spy upon
our Agents at Court.

I cannot but hope to find
you very speedily in America &
think it highly interesting to the
Suit that you should be on the
Spot.

The Circumstance of ye
having only 3 Months allowed after
ye Decease may prevent you from
waiting the Arrival of the Confederacy
with Mr Gerard &c. I have therefore
covered to Mr Bondfield & Mr Schweig-
hauser what is for you of Impor-
tance by that Opportunity which
is expected to sail in a very few
Days. I really cannot send Copies
of the many Sheets put up to go
by her.

Doctr Shippens Family are
in Health. Your Friends in Virginia
were so Sept 25th.

Your affectionate
humble Servant

private

Dear Sir Oct 14th 1779

Mr Bonfield on the 30th of June & 22d of July wrote to us and forwarded many Letters from you one only of which was new. a Letter of May 31 which was read in Congreſs Oct 13th and produced an Entry somewhat palliative in regard to the Doings of Sep. 27 I know not whether you was in France at the Time Mr Bonfield wrote. I had been hoping that you would finish yr Commiſsion in Spain before Mr Jay's Voyge could be compleated. The late Conduct of the Court of Madrid ſeemed to give a fair opening for it. I lament the Length of Time between the Dates & Receipts of yr Letters. I was ſure that if you found yr Ability to ſerve us to be in fact impaired by the malignant Proceedings of Deane & the unbecoming Tameneſs of those who ought to have ſhewn themselves the Patrons & Guardians of yr Honor, you would tell us so, and make way for a Succeſsor. Your Letter of May 31st was listened to with gravity, and commented upon with approbation as well by former Cons as by constant Pros. Mercer owned he conceived new Ideas of you, and he looked Repentance. He has a curious Correspondent, a Brother of the ſame name

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J L

My dear Friend (No 323) Oct. 24 - 1779

I arrived in Town yesterday and immediately carried Doctor Lee's Justification to the printer who is to let me know this day what he will print it for; The Doctors Letter to Brax is published and greatly approved of both as to matter & manner Braxton upon being asked what he thought of it says he must answer it. I fancy his answer will be a curious Contrast to it. We have certain Advice here that Doctor Lee is recalled and Jay goes to the Court of Madrid — Congress is so certain of an Accommodation with Great Britain that they have appointed Mr. John Adams to [illegible]lland ready to go to Britain upon the Event. I understand that a Committee appointed to examine into the Doctors Conduct called by direction of Congress upon Mr Gerard whose opinion of him was reported to that Body — he says Doctor Lee from the ungraciousness of his Manner is a very unfit person to be either at the Court of Versailles or Madrid this Method of investigating matters is quite new and extraordinary what lengths will this wretched party carry there envy to.

An Express arrived this day from Congress to the Governor. He tells me the chief purport of it is to infor of the second division of Arbuthnots Fleet arriving at New York with 3000 Recruits. I am afraid this will be prejudicial to D'Estaing Plan which is most certainly to cooperate with Gl Washington

as

against New York. The News we have heard of a Fleet being in the Bay is without foundation. There appears to be no doubt of the Counts success agst. Georgia and that he is gone Northward where I have hopes he will also have success. God bless you

I am very affectionately Yours

Should not our Militia be on
their Guard? we may expect a Visit

Richd. Parker
Oct. 14th. 1779

Rich

Parker

Oct. 14th 1779, Richard Parker.

~~No 357~~
(No 323)

No. 357.

Honble Richard Henry Lee esquire

Chantilly

Hon.ble
Arthur Lee Esq.

Bordeaux 16 8bre 1779

Sir

Refering to what I had the Honor to write you the 12 Inst wherein I advised of the Sloop that was preparing to carry the dispatches

This Sloop was fitted out by a friend of Le R de C Cant fall. On the accompts being made up Bills were drawn on Cotten & Co as instructed but on presentation w~~h~~ere not accepted and by default the Vessel detaind several weeks. The same farces are renewed. Le R de C wrote to his friend on receipt you are ~~to~~ imediately to dispatch the Agate with the dispatches that are now sent down and put on board ten Thousand Ells Broad Cloth Linings &c which you will obtain at 12 mo.s credit the Gentleman not having implicite faith in the Credit of M. R de C. wrote up his remarks for which he waits the answer ~~by~~ which the Operations are delayd and the Governments dispatches which in all probability is of consequence at this Critical time detaind at this Port to serve the private

purposes

purposes of the Agent for in that light I regard Mr Le R. de C.
Query do you suppose these Clothes are shipt by order of Dr F.
or a speculation of Le R. de C if by order of Dr F it appears the
american Commissions are diverted into that channel and as it
is certain de C has assurance of a reimbursement in Paris perhaps
even in hand by the term required he will employ the publick
Capital on which Interest is paying and charge the publick the
term price on which interest is of course laid thereby the publick
paying the Interest on both sides find herself incumbred wth a debt of
12 ₶ Ct on Interest all this is supposition drawn from Circumstances at any
rate the detention of the packet is a Nuisance of a flagrant
nature ~~all this~~ the circumstantial I have from the merchant himself employed
by C— Holkers Drafts on C— are not ~~discharged~~ accepted
unless he takes especial care in America his Credit will sink

entre nous I have room to believe there are two strings
to the Bow if the Goods thus sent out arrive safe they are private
property if lost on acct of the Publick. the Business is not transacted openly
at the same time I wish I had the Commissions let them regulate
the helm as they can ten Thousand Ells Broad Cloth with their appurtenances
is an object of 120m ₶ ~~bt~~ de C is very irregular in his mercantile
transactions I am respectfully &c

if I can contract for a quantity of Cannon powder
account of remittances from the State of Virginia on
rest upon I have a prospect of being enabled to a
such a Contract

I was yesterday much Surprised & pleased
r Friend L. the Step he is taking is bold
ecessary for publick & private Affairs. I
meet with Success. He left this place this
he. I am affraid I dare not take the Measure
John, which you advise me to. He would soon grow
abandoned in a Sea port Towne – [illegible] his expectations in Life
are perhaps above the Chances of a Sailor. – if He was in
America He ~~would~~ of Course enter into the Army in defence
of his Country. & I wish He was there – for I expect but little
goo[d] for Him in Europe – at present however I am under
a necessity of having Him with me – as it is evident He cannot
stay at the Pension – therefore be so good as to send Him
to me here. for that purpose there ~~is~~ I believe a good
opportunity is now offering. Your friend L tells me that Cl:
Mercer is coming hither. read & send the inclosed to ~~him~~
Colonel. & if you please arrange with him the mode of
conveyance. You tell me of certain papers being
read in C ought they not ~~to~~ be published? they
certainly ought. if C takes not immediate

Notice of them. D'Estain's leaving the French Isle is a bold measure, He's going to America He has now another Chance of routing or entirely. I suppose myself & I pray to God to Succeſs. — Remember me to your 2

I am D Sir
Yours Most.

Octr 17. 1779.

J. Clement

P.S. pray pay my Respects to Mrs Ireland & family. — I do not immediately recollect the Street, where Mr Bonfie the Wine Merchant Lives:

Lundi 10 heures du matin

je ne me suis pas engagée a une petite affaire, mon aimable ami, qui de te promettre de t'ecrire, que puisje te dire, que je t'aime, je te l'ai deja dit mille et mille fois. hé bien, oui, mon ami, je t'aime, et je t'aime du premier moment que je t'ai vû. je sçai que je te donne peu de chose en te donnant mon coeur, mais je te le donne sans partage, tout mon Sexe est trompeur comme le Votre, cependant je mourrois plutot que de te tromper. au milieu du monde entier je ne vois que mon amant, et mon amant est tout pour moi; l'absence, les peines, tes infidelitez meme, rien ne peut faire changer ce coeur qui t'adore, tu tiens mon sort dans tes mains, ~~daigne le moi [illegible] je~~ tu peut me rendre Digne ~~[illegible] de me tromper~~ Denvie mon ami l'on m'a toujours peint l'amour comme un Sentiment qui rend veritablement heureux, pourquoi donc ne suisje pas heureuse. je fais mille reflexions plus vives les unes que les autres eclaire moi cher ami de ma vie, fais moi donc connoitre le bonheur que l'on promet aux veritables amants, je ne Suis heureuse que lorsque je te vois, personne cependant ne peut aimer autant que j'aime et je n'ai jamais été Si triste · je ne prevois que des peines, j'ai dans le coeur quelque chose de Sinistre, mon ami, Si ma jeunesse, et le peu de beauté que le ciel m'a donnée est mon seul mérite a tes yeux, bientot tu ne m'aimeras plus · je sens que j'en mourrois: cette reflexion me met au desespoir · je te trouve Si aimable; il me Semble que toutes les femmes ont les mêmes impressions que moi · pour te plaire tu en trouveras de mille fois plus jolies que moi, que tu les aimeras; cette pensée me tourmente encore, mais jamais tu ne trouveras le coeur de ta Sophie, comment donc faire pour être heureuse? viens ce soir a dix heures me rassurer, mon ami, viens m'apporter le bonheur, tu le peux, en me jurant que tu m'aimeras toute ta vie · je t'embrasse de toute mon ame.

Songe que je compte les minutes, sois chez moi a 10 heures precises

un mot de reponse.

Translation To Mr. Leed at Chatto
rue bataille

Monday 4 o'c in the morning

It is no trivial affair I engag'd in, my lovely friend, when I promis'd to write to you. What can I say? — that I love you — I have already said it a thousand & a thousand times — Ah yes my friend, I love you — & I lov'd you from the first moment I saw you. I know that I give you but a trifle, when I give you my heart. But I give it you entirely. Tho' all my Sex, like yours, are deceivers — yet I would die rather than deceive you — In the midst of company I see nothing but my Beloved — & my Beloved is every thing to me. Absence — anxiety — even your infidelities — nothing can change this heart, that adores you. My fate is in your hands — you can render it worthy of being envied.

My Love — I have been always

taught to believe, that Love is a feeling that renders one truly happy— Wherefore is it then, that I am **not** happy? I make a thousand reflections on this equally unsatisfactory. Instruct me O beloved of my life! make me comprehend the happiness that is promised to real Lovers!— I am never happy but when I see you — no mortal can love more than I do, & yet I never was so sad. I foresee nothing but misery— my heart forebodes something bad, my Love — If my youth, & the little beauty which heaven has given me, are my only merit in your eyes— you will soon cease to love me— And then I feel that I shd. die— This reflection torments me. You appear to me so lovely, that I think all women must be as fond of pleasing you— You will find some a thousand times more ~~pleasure~~ beautiful than I am— You may love them— this thought too afflicts me. Come my Beloved, this evening & comfort me Nothing gives me happiness— You alone can do it, by swearing you will love me while you live— I embrace you with all my Soul— Remember that I count the minutes till you come— be punctual to 10 O'C. One word of reply.

The Honble John P. Jones Esqr (No 316) Commander in Chief of the American Oct 21, 1779
Squadron now at Anchor in the Texel &c &c

To Lieutenant James Degge

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Congreſs & his Ex:cellency the American Ambaſsador at the Court of France, you are hereby required & directed to take upon you the Command of the Continental frigate Alliance. You are to [illegible] from all manner of things whatsoever belonging to that important trust. And I do strictly charge & require all Officers & Men belonging to that Ship to pay due attention to their duty & prompt obedience to your Order.

You are to prepare the Ship for service with all poſsible diligence & give into me immediately a demand of the Stores & provi:sions that may be neceſsary for two months, inclusive of what remains now on board.

It shall be my care by every means in my power to pro:cure & realize to every person under my command his property in the Serapis & all other prizes which we have taken, Therefore I wish to know what steps the majority think most expe:dient that I may govern myself accordingly in the instructions which I may give in that respect; & the Men who have fa:milies in America may depend & be aſsured that I will do my best to procure them the means of returning home; in the mean time it will give me the sincerest pleasure to promote their interest & happineſs

Given on board the Ship
of War the Serapis at Anchor
:[illegible] at Texel the 21st Octr 1779

(Signed) John Paul Jones

Brest mon adresse toujours.
Rennes Le 22 8bre 1779

Je suis fort touché Monsieur du depart du
Le docteur votre frere. Je plains fort Mad.e Iza
rester seule avec ses enfans dans un pais qui est
aussi eloigné du sien. quand vous trouverez l'o
de lui prononcer mon nom, je vous prie de le f
& de l'assurer de mon respect. Mr votre frere ne
reste t'il pas toujours chargé des affaires du
commerce. Je vous prie de leur faire bien des complimens
de ma part. J'espere que desormais les choses
iront mieux.

L'entreprise de Mr D'Estaing est belle et aura
de grandes suites si elle reussit tout le promet.
ce qui est icy ne sert qu'a retenir les anglois
chez eux et c'est beaucoup. Je crois que l'armée
sortira incessamment. les premieres fregates

ment a la vote romain. Je souhaite les plus ardeurs [illegible] [illegible] de raisons pour [illegible] le bien l'augmenter [illegible] sur le compte doit naturellement engager le ministere a assurer un [illegible] [illegible] avoir aucun [illegible] d'objection [illegible] dans cette saison cy. adieu Monsieur je ne crois pas avoir l'honneur de vous voir avant le mois de decembre. ce sera surement un plaisir bien reel de pouvoir vous renouveller les assurances de tous mes sentimens

Je ne sçay si vous avez reçu les livres que J'ay eu l'honneur de vous ecrire de les porter [illegible] que vous les [illegible] pour que votre adresse soit necessaire. Je seray cependant [illegible]

uise de le savoir. Sur tout pour mon arrivée
a Paris

Dear Sir, (No 335) Woodyards Friday Even^g 22^d October 1779.

Your favour of the 17th by Col^o Loyauté was deliver'd to me by that very agreeable Gentleman and you may be sure that I received him very Cordially; he staid with me only One night & set off for Annapolis on Wednesday Morning. In my Opinion the return of the Officers & Artificers who came over with this Gentleman, back to France, has proved, & will prove, of great prejudice to America; & I think Virginia might have found Employment for him; I told him indeed that I thought he was rather too warm & quick in his Resolutions, which he seemed to agree to. I hope every thing from the Count D'Estaings Vigilance & I know from the Board of War that all the Ordnance & every preparation are going forward to invest N. York by Land while the Count blocks it up, to use that Phrase, by Sea. Genl W— has called for 10,000 Militia from the Neighbouring States; Sullivan who has effectually destroyed the Country of the 5 Nations was marching to Join Genl W— & has done it by this time, I expect that by Saturdays Post to hear great News.

I must correct an expression in your Letters; You write "that I was *pleased* to say that your Sister in law and yourself was &c." indeed you greatly mistake, my friend, for I was *not pleased* at all, but very much *displeased* at such injurious Reports circulating; which I knew would increase Our Animosity, & divisions; weaken Ourselves & increase the Power of Our Enemies; and ill as I was I could not help putting You on your Guard. I well know the base Artifices of the British Emissaries and the stupid headless folly of the Generality of Mankind — continually baiting & Calumniating the best & Ablest Friends of America, so as to make their

Publick Stations irksome to them & to retire either from resentment or for the mere sake of quiet. I promise you I am no Friend to a Tyranny, or Tyrants, that would restrain any Gentleman or Lady from receiving or entertaining in their Houses their acquaintance or Friends or Strangers; nor shall I vindicate the People of Maryland for their Opinions, having but a so so regard for their Judgment; but if reports be true, the Sentiments of the People of Maryland were not Singular, respecting the Tyranny you would avoid; it has been positively asserted here, that your own Neighbours took offence, but as I always hear such assertions with indignation I scorn to make enquiry; well knowing the Petulance of the Tongues of the Idle & malignant; nor do I know how the Devil I am drawn in to dwell on Subjects so repugnant to my disposition. I think indeed every Man is, or ought to be, the best judge, and Master, of his own Affairs; But if ~~he~~ Men will obstinately persist in supporting a falling Tower, against repeated cautions & the sense of the rest of the World,— I may lament in Secret & Silence, but shall not be surprised, if they happens to be crushed by its fall.......

You Complain of being ill; I have had repeated Fevers arising from vexation & want of Fruit to keep my Blood cool; nor am I well at this time; Our Publick Affairs are run to ruin which deeply affects me. —.—. Since I saw you I have seen several of the Magnates of G— & of the great City; among others Mr P— of N C—. a Gentleman who does not hide his light under a Bushell. I have had much Satisfaction from those Conversations; my Opinion of D is confirmed; and I have learned thus much, that neither the Integrity or Abilities of Dr L— are doubted, but that the Truth is, his Temper is unhappy; & he has thereby made himself disagreeable to Vergennes & others with whom he has had Business to Transact. I am very sorry to hear this Confirmed by his true friends

who knew him well - Strange! that a Gentleman of his
Rage & Great Abilities should not acquire the Amiable. His
Letter to C B did my Heart Good; — I have a
most Cordial hatred to that same C B, though I never
saw him; and I have laid aside ~~such~~ a Sample of
Hemp such as the Scandanavian, with which Jack
Calvin hanged himself, to be ready when Jemmie shall
overtake the said C B. You must have heard of
the Privates of the Militia rising in Philadelphia to
take Wilson for espousing the Cause of some People
Charged with Treason - & of their Suppression by President
Read & the light Horse; many were killed & wounded
on that Occasion. there was a rising at German
Town, and a Conference with Read, which ended in
a Compromise: the Militia Prisoners should be released
& Wilson & his Company ~~be~~ delivered to the Militia;
but Wilson &c. absconded. [I wish you would tell me
at what time you cut your Corn Stalks. — and whether
you planted them on purpose. Has any one tried of the
Sugar Cane would ripen in the Compass of our Summers.
Yesterday I pulled the finest Crop of flax I ever saw,
3 feet & a half in height the seed good; sowed in July
about 10 Acres.) Robinson gained universal Respect in
France, is returned with a very fine Cargo to Philadelphia,
& carried a Prize in with him. Little Jennifer let it
out in this Neighbourhood that Genl Lee had sent his
Commission to Congress some time since; that as soon as
Peace came he proposed to go to some part of Europe; and
some Months ago I had a hint from a first hand that
He would not be employed. I tell you this, because Mr
Layaute said it was new to him, perhaps it may be
so to you. The Publishing or Re-Publishing Drayton & Paca's
Memorial to Congress & the Strictures upon it I imagine

(No 325) ~~[illegible]~~ S. West. Octr 22nd 1779.

were intended to turn the Scale against the Absent, & Jay's appointment to Spain was the Consequence. I pray to God that I may never become obnoxious to any Great & Popular Man, or System, whose weight, alone, would infallibly weigh me down, however right, however innocent, however meritorious; in such a Case past experience & present times shews there can be no safety or Security tile the Tide of Events Change. a Man may remain fixed; but must bend like a reed or be rooted up. Since I have been unwell I have been reading for amusement Campbell's Lives of the Admirals & could not avoid remarking how often the greatest Men and best & Successful Officers were laid aside & re-instated just as Party whim & Caprice governed. Our Friend S.C— is become a terrible Mal-content & declares, were such a Bequest good he would Will his Boys to lose their Bequests if they accepted of any Publick office; but this I charge to Passion. I leave Moralizing & the rest of this Page for Saturday's post which I hope to fill it with good News & great Events:—. I see by the Virginia Paper that Mr. Ford is likely to bring some Censure on Dr L— which I am sorry for. By the Carolina Paper of the 22d. Sept. there is an Acct. of The Counts movements to the 16th or 17th which augurs Success— I hope my Friend Prevost & his little Wife may be Burgoyned— I desired Mackintosh to be careful of the Lady—. I lived with her in the same House at New York for 3 Months.—

Marlbro'— Saturday Morning — for News I refer you to the Papers ——

Dr Sir Yrs truly

S West

West

My dear Friend [illegible] (No 328) Octr. 23 —— 1779

I wrote to you some short time ago by Mr. Robert Mitchel who promised to send my Letter to my house from whence I directed it to be immediately sent. I advised you in that Letter of the receipt of yours with the Letters for France. I have sent one off and the other will go within a Week. I have delivered them to Mr. Bea who promises they shall certainly go by different Ships about to sail immediately. I have sent up to Cumberland Town respecting your Linnen, but the Capt will do nothing but promise to settle the Affair when he returns to France. I did not choose to trust him, and iſsu a Writ against him, which I sent up by the same Meſsenger, (one of the Overseers Ellis being ill) and commiſsioned him after the Writ was served to propose to leave the value of the Linnen and damages to Mr. Beale, pay that & the Costs of Suit and that it should be dismd. I have got the Chief Justice to direct the Sherif to take Bail for £1500. I did expect the Meſsenger back today but I have not yet seen him. I inclose you Braxtons Answer if ~~it~~ that may be called an Answer that totally evades the Question, tis a very curio performance, and is supposed to have been written by his Son in law White; be that as it may, every body laughs at it and he is by almost all reprobated as a worthleſs unprincipled man. He has only once opened his Mouth in Aſsembly and appear much chapfallen. He has been absent a Week. A motion I am told will be made on his return to have him expelled. it is difficult to discover the Cause why it has not been done before. [I can not yet procure a paper with Doctor Lees Letter for you. Mr. Page promises to bring one on Monday when it shall be sent. This day and not before Your appeal came to hand. I shall carry it tomorrow to the Attorney and consult with him about it and if poſsible have it tried this Court. You judged Right; the Enemies of your family ~~were~~ are very fond of spreading the News of Doctor Lees disgraceful depreſsion by Cong His Defence will soon be out and then I hope their Mouths will be effectually stopped. You will hardly have two Copies for yourself this day fortnight I expect to get it. they are 3/ a Copy, I am ~~No 358~~ (No 326)

Dear Sir

Yours affectionately

Richd. Parker

Oct. 23d. 1779

(No 326)

Wm. Parker

Oct. 1779

Braxton to be expelled

Richard Parker Letter 23d Octo.r 1779

~~No 358~~

Chambière près Rennes 24 X

Je suis vivement touché, Monsieur, de la pri plaisir de vous voir avant votre depart, le fort attachem que j'ay dans le pays cy ne m'a[illegible] pas per[illegible] retourner plutot dans celui ou vous etes. J'espere q ne laisserez pas ignorer le moment ou vous qu[illegible] que vous voudrez bien me donner de vos nouvelles fois que vous en trouverez l'occasion sans oublier de m'apprendre par quelle voie je pourrai vous donner des miennes.

Je ne vous dirai point que je trouve fort difficile de former l'avis que vous desirez. rien n'est cependant plus vray. Mais ce seroit mal repondre a la marque de confiance dont vous m'honorez qui exige de moy des efforts et non pas une excuse quelque raisonnable qu'elle fut. le voicy donc, Monsieur, cet avis que je vous donne sans n'etre attaché en aucune manière

Je crois que vous ne devez point donner le Memoire dont vous me parlez. Il me semble que le moindre inconvenient de ces sortes de demarches est de donner aux choses une celebrité qu'elles n'auguereroient jamais sans elles —

Qu'arrive t'il? on n'obtient pas la moitié de ce qu'on auroit point oublier tout ce que vous lui avez dit et den les documens sous ses yeux parce que vous le tems lui en fera connoitre la verité

Si, comme cela me paroit, il n'est point nec votre deffense devant le Congrès de faire de plein j'aimerois que vous ajoutassiez a ce qui doit proposer qu'il n'entendra point dire que vous fait aucun.

Je me fonde a cet egard sur ce que la lettre me paroit susceptible d'une interpretation tres moderée le gen au fond les ministres ne peuvent pas s'empecher d'etre trompés quelquefois parce qu'ils sont hommes. or [illegible] incontestablement au nombre de ceux qu'il est infiniment interessant d'eclaircir

Je n'ay que le tems de vous renouveller l'assurance de tous mes sentimens et de vous prier d'assurer madame Izard de mon respect. reste elle a Paris elle y sera bien seule.

Comme des affaires pareilles ne se décident point
ouvertement dans les parlemens ou les comités se-
crets, le public n'a jamais bien sçu les détails
dans le tems que le moment d'une [illegible]
insulte on disoit beaucoup de choses d'écart et d'aut-
combien votre éducation est pénible mais certain-
es que vous pouvez en aucune démarche ; au
sans contexte. Il amenera des évenemens qui feront
connoître la vérité.

Voici cependant une démarche qu'il me paroit qui
pourroit être utile, et dont je désirerois que l'idée vous plût.
Il me semble qu'elle n'est point impossible à concilier avec
ce qui s'est passé.

C'est que vous écriviez encore une fois à M. de [illegible]. Vous lui
diriez que votre rapel que vous avez demandé dès le
mois de va, suivant toutes les apparences, rompre
toute espèce de relation entre vous, mais qu'il est trop
douloureux pour vous de laisser en partant l'auteur des
impressions défavorables dans l'esprit d'un des ministres
qui a le plus de considération pour ne pas tenter jusqu'au
dernier moment de les détruire ; que vous n'espérez pas
de le ramener à présent mais que vous le priez de ne

25 Oct 79

I wrote to you about a week ago,
you to convey my Nephew to me here — I should
ed to know when he is likely to set out, that I may
prepared for his Reception — if Genet has published
in the Affaires d'Angleterre et l'Amerique, the Paper which
you have seen in the Remembrancer, entitled the Spirit &
Resources of G B considered. be so good as to send me two or
three of the publications. — I have letters from Nantes
that ~~repeat~~ inform^{n} of the Contempt in which Deane is fallen.
— the English Funds fall whether it is owing to the Hopes
of Peace Vanishing or that affairs have a bad prospect for
them in America I know not. — I Hope you will send me soon
some good News. — I desire to be remembered to your Nephew.
— I am told your Brother is coming hither.

I am D Sir

Octr. 25. 1779.

Yours Most Sincerely

Edm: Jennings

(No 327) Octr 26th 1779

ear Sir

Your Favor of the 3d reached me ly yesterday & those of the 9th & 16th is morning by Col Loyaute. There re Letters of mine in the oad to you which will reach ou with the Registers. By he by, I did not give the rinters, as I ought to have one, Extracts of those Books, r Publication. I wish, for he sake of a thorough Friend ol. Peabody that I could have in print or out that Passage where orders are given for more rigorous Treatment of us than formerly. ——— I am so pressed now that I cannot give you Vouchers or Extracts but by Mr. Laurens I will aim to do it. I shall attend to what you say of the Post Office ~~And~~ a Report is this Day in Train. I hope the Office will have added to its all or most of the present Expenditures for Expresses; or rather, that the Office will be enriched with one twentieth Part of that enormous Sum.

You must eer this have heard of the Secretaries, and Joshua Johnson to examine accounts. But as Mr. Laurens is going to Holland I think

he will be able, if directed to scru-
tinize many Things in France
also.

I hear nothing from Mr.
Jno. A. & Fr. D. yet. But
if the latter refuses I understand
that Gov. M & Sr. J J are desirous
of filling that Vacancy or the
the principal one if J A refuses.
I would even strive, therefore, for
the 2d. Place.

I hope I shall have
more Leisure to write by next
Opportunity

yr. affectionate
Friend
& humble Servt.
J

1779

(No 327)

Lovell

R. H. Lee Esq.

(No 328)

My D.r S.r

Brussells 30th. Oct.r 1779

Inclosed you have a copy of my last of the 14th. inst.t to which I beg your attention. Your Son Thom, goes in a vessel to Philadelphia & I sincerely hope will arrive safe & afford you that satisfaction which you have a right to expect from the attention you have paid to, & the expence that has been layed out upon his education. If my abilities enabled me to pay the expence of his continuing longer on this side (which unhappily for me is not the case) I do not see that there wou'd be the least use in his stay. He has been long enough in as good a counting house as any in Europe to get a sufficient knowlege of Commerce, especially that of France, where all commerce except a little to their own Islands, is almost annihilated & your Son will tell you how little disposition there is to venture a single livre in the trade to America; therefore without a capital to begin with, he cou'd do nothing by staying where he is. In his own Country he may find some op.ty of exercising the knowlege he has gain'd, & I suppose he will be found well qualified to make a good American Consul in some of the European Ports. M.r Rawleigh Colston seems to be a diligent & intelligent Gentleman, perhaps they may form some plan together, tho' if M.r Tho.s Jett is in business he will be a good person for him to be connected with. It will give me very sincere pleasure to find that you are satisfied with my proceedings, but I must assure you that had he been my own Son, I sh.d not have acted

otherwise

otherwise than I have done; for at present I have no poſsible method of employing him, since the Agency for the State of Virginia neither yields profit, or affords occupation at present & besides [I doubt whether my appointment continues since I have not recd. any letter from Govr. Henry these 18 Mos. past, which may be imputed to the intrigues of Mr. D. who has been always in close correspondence with him, or to some falsehoods of the adventurer Penet, (of which he is very capable & who I hear is a very great man with you. I have again — written now to the present Governor Jefferson about sending remittances for the articles already sent & I hope you will take care in the first aſsembly to have this done, as I suppose my Brother will now send you duplicates of the papers he sent by Mr. Izard.] The expence of your Son & the Articles I have sent you, I can't give you an exact acct. of now, being just arrived here & my papers pack'd up, besides I do not know what will be the expence of his paſsage. or whether he can engage it to be paid in Ama. As far as I recollect I have paid for yr. Son to Midsummer last abt. 3891. Livres 17 Sols, & for Goods abt. 581. L. 8 Sols, exclusive of freight &c. For Genl. News I refer you to your Son — [The Campaign on Sea in Europe is finish'd & nothing done but an amazing sum of money spent & about 10000 Lives lost by Disease; Giberalter is besieged but in Engd. they seem to have little apprehension of its being taken. From the con of the B. Ministry it wd. seem as if they wish'd it shd. be taken that they may not be embarraſsed at the Peace, with the demands of Spain relative to it. The Congreſs Frigate the Alliance that brot over the Marquiſs de la Fayette has been kept idle in France ever since her arrival waiting for some French Privateers, the principal of which of 42 Guns was commanded by Paul Jones who was formerly in the service of Congreſs. Jones was Commodore & the fleet consisted of abt. 6 Ships including the Alliance of 36 Guns how far the Dignity of Congreſs was supported by one of their

Ships

Ships of War sailing under the orders of a Capt. of a Privateer, you can judge as well as me; however to leave a loop hool to creep out at it is supposed that these Privateers besides their French Comns. had Congress comns. given them by Dr. F. by whose order sit seems the Comr. of the Alliance acted. This fleet sail'd round the North of Scotland & took several prizes & in the North Sea met a British fleet of seventy sail from the Baltic laden with Naval Stores convoyed by the Serapis of 40 Guns, & a ship of 20 Guns Jones Ship of 42 Guns & the Alliance attack'd the Serapis wch after a very hard engagemt. was taken, Jones's ship being so much damaged that she was quitted immediately & sunk, the English 20 Gun ship was also taken by the rest of the Privateers but all the merchantmen escaped. The Serapis & 20 Gun ship were brot into the Texel in Holland, where it is said they are detain'd, being claim'd by the B. Ambassador as the property of his Master. The papers also tell us that two prizes made by these privateers carried into Bergen in Norway have been given up at the requisition of the B. resident at Copenhagen. I must tell you that all these vessels both in Holland & Norway went into Port under Amn. Colors. This is one instance that will show (if these reports about these vessels prove to be true) what kind of Wisdom directed C. to determine that Ministers were unnecessary any where else but in France & Spain. In my opinion they are more necessary everywhere else.

I suppose our Br. at Paris will write particularly & fully from thence by this conveyance, therefore I have only to request that you will let me hear from you by all oppties; if they are to Spain, Portugal or France, put yr. letters under cover address'd a Monsieur Monsr. Grand Banquier Paris; if to Holland, under cover to Mess. Jean De Neufville & fils Negociants Amsterdam. I propose to stay here as long as my finances will enable me to do so, or until I hear from Ama. particularly from you, for there is little prospect of being able to do any thing beneficial in the way of trade while the War continues

&

Wm. Lee

(No 338) Oct. 30th 1779.

Peace seems farther off now than it was 20 Months ago, for the late proceedings in Amca. have kept up in full vigor in the K. of G. B. the thirst of conquering that Country, by Art or by Force, & therefore unleſs some unforseen & unexpectedly favorable occurrence takes place I can never expect to live to see Peace; for as things are conducted it will take a long time before the particular objects of France & Spain can be accomplish'd, — which being done, if ——— is not then totally ruin'd & depopulated she may shift for herself. My whole Family join me in sincerest Love to you our Sister & all the Children. Adieu & always believe me most Affectly. Yours — W. L.

P.S. Remember that the Political sentiments &c. contain'd herein are only for your perusal & Loudouns, but not to be communicated to any one else as coming from me. I just hear that the combin'd fleets are sail'd from Brest & Sr. Chas. Hardy with the B. Fleet, abt. 40 Sail of the line is sail'd from Portsmo., so that your Son may poſsibly carry you the news of an important Sea Engagement that may hasten a Peace.

R. H.

W. Lee
30 Octr 1779

Chambiere pres Rennes le

Dear Sir

la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur d
le 30 m'a fait beaucoup de peine. elle m'ap
depart de paris a une epoque bien plus pr
que je ne le craignois et le desir que vous m
de causer avec moy, en meme tems qu'il m
comme il le doit m'afflige par l'idée que mon retour
peut manquer a votre amitié je serai surement a
paris au plus tard le 15 janvier mais je crains de n'y
pouvoir pas arriver plutot. je suis retenu par
bien des causes dont la moindre est un petit procès
qu'il faut que je mette en train d'être jugé dans
l'année. nous sollicitons ici nos juges. on vient
d'en nommer un, il faut que je le voie. j'auray
ensuite des ordres a donner pour faire imprimer
un memoire &a &a cela ne sera pas long mais si
on me demande 8 jours de plus pour l'achever, je
ne pourrai pas le refuser

pouvez decider ce qui convient parce que vous connoissez exactement votre position. Mais admettez la demarche que je vous propose. [illegible] chose dans ce genre. Je le regarderai comme un bien.

Quant au memoire je persiste plus que jamais dans le sentiment que vous ne devez pas [illegible] le reste la dessus ou je ne craindrai point de donner mon avis tres decidé.

Je vous prie de me mander si vous avez reçu ces deux lettres. Je ne serai qu'a la fin du mois prochain a Paris mais j'y serai surement je souhaite bien vivement de vous y trouver encore. Adieu Monsieur vous connoissez tous mes sentimens.

Il faut compter que la personne dont nous parlons restera longtems ou elle est.

Chambier par Romes ce

Je ne puis me refuser, Monsieur, de causer un
avec vous sur le sujet de ma dernière lettre. Je m
que la fin aura pu vous paroître peu convenir a
d'un homme independant qui croit avoir des r
plaindre. mais je vous prie de ne céder au sentiment
qu'après y avoir reflechi un peu profondement. Quand
je serois en état de me former un avis absolu j'aurois
quelque peine a me determiner a vous le faire connoître
parce que la question est un peu trop delicate pour
oser prendre sur soi de la decider mais je n'en suis pas
a portée, je ne sçais pas tout ce que j'aurois besoin de
savoir.

tout depend du point precis ou vous en êtes avec la
personne dont vous m'avez parlé, celle avec qui vous
avez eu une conversation dont vous n'avez pas été content.
si par la maniere dont vous vous êtes expliqué en la
finissant, vous ne pouvez plus revenir vers elle, tout en

ce l'est encore si vous vous etiez veritablement
opposé. Mais je vous avoüe que je ne le
pas d'apres ce que vous m'en avez dit. La lettre
de coté de l'eau me paroit susceptible de quelques
explications ou, si vous voulez, de quelques excuses
telle que celle de dire qu'on avoit été trompé. Voila
le point; Je voudrois que vous pussiez faire, qu'il vous fut
convenable de les supposer et de vous rapprocher de
cet homme.

Ma raison est que si vous ne le faites pas vous vous
mettez dans un etat de Guerre qui d'une part peut
avoir des suites embarassantes et de l'autre empecher
le retour vers vous et ses Lettres lorsque le tems aura
fait connoitre la verité, le vrai etat des choses et decouvert
les ressorts que l'on a fait jouer.

Je sçay combien cela est delicat parce qu'un homme
offensé peut pardonner, peut oublier, mais se fait
tort s'il s'oblige a faire des avances qu'on peut regarder
comme une marque de foiblesse. Vous seul Monsieur

vous retrouver Encore a paris. - si q
partes, que Je sache au moins ceux.
& Believe me for Ever yours &c

mes respects tres humbles a mad.lle
J'imagine qu'elle est toujours a l'hotel de
toulouse. mille complimens aux Izard si
il en est Encore tems.

entierement de votre avis sur la campagne
quelle ne soit totalement manquée le cise
;eur extreme mon eloignement de tout
lieu ou je pourrois m'instruire m'empeche d'en avoir
la mesure mais je la crois tres grande. quand
on a vu de pres notre marine et la flotte qui couvre
la rade de Brest, on y est encore plus sensible
Quelque disposition que jaie a me flater, je ne
puis attendre aucune nouvelle agreable de son
d'estaing je trouve quaumoins au 1er 7bre il
n'avoit encore rien fait

en relisant votre lettre je trouve que cest bien
pis puisquon a des nouvelles d'halifax du 26

adieu my dear sir je fais des voeux pour

Dear Brother

Paris November 7th 1779

I have not heard either of or from you, since your Letter from Mr Lloyds, in your way home. Political situations were at all times & in all Countries, precarious & perplexing. With us they must be extraordinarily so. Patience therefore & attention are neceſsary as well for the public good, as for our private satisfaction. There is too much at stake to permit men of principle to abandon the public, because bad ones have a temporary credit & sway. The worse they are, the more danger there is in leaving the public entirely in their management.

If, as is not improbable, it should be proposed to settle with Congreſs for what I have advanced for the State, instead of repaying me, it will leave me without subsistance for that was the only fund I had for my expences. Dr Franklin has positively refused to advance me any out of the public money in his hands; & you know how little one can rely on remittances from Philadelphia. The services I have rendered the State will therefore have brought upon me the severest distreſs, & in all probability the censure too of Congreſs

The events of the campaign, have not answered our expectations nor those of Europe. The boldneſs of the Enemy which defyd Armaments, apparently adequate & intended for their destruction, have exalted their character, & the little injury they have suffered from the combined force of the House of Bourbon,

will

will give them Credit & perhaps Allies. In short the war
has every appearance of training into length; & the active
part of it will be against you, if D'Estaign's aſsistance
should not enable our Army to crush the head & heart of these
predatory bands at New York. My only hope is on this.

The proceedings of Congreſs have thrown such an appear-
ance of dishonor on my character, that I am determined not
to go as their Minister to Spain, without new Credentials
which shall efface what has paſsed. If they do not chuse
to do this, they will recal me; & I shall hope to have the
happineſs of embracing you in the Spring.

My best love to Mrs Lee &
our friends Adieu

Francis L. Lee Esqr.
Dupe.

No 329

Philadelphia Nov. 5th 1779.

Dear Sir

I doubt not you have long ere this received a short Letter from me acknowleging the Receipt of yours of the 19th Septr which I wrote ~~in Jersey~~ I have been some Time here again, but have not had the Pleasure of hearing from you since my Arrival —

On my Return I enquired, and found Mr Lovel had transmitted you Copies or Duplicates of the Papers which you wished me to send you, therefore thought it unnecessary to repeat them —

This Letter will be also a short one, as I have the Satisfaction of sending it by the Honble Mr Laurens, who will call on you in his Journey to Charles Town and consequently be able to give you a more general and accurate Detail of Business and News than I could possibly do in the Compass of a Letter —

I will ~~only~~ congratulate you on the Evacuation of Rhode Island, and on the Birth of your Cassius; the first on public, the second on private Account — I sincerely wish him to live, and to shine with distinguished Lustre on the public Theatre of that great Republic, in founding which his Father has labored with such Assiduity & Applause.

Commend my warmest Expressions of Esteem and Respect to your amiable Consort, and permit me to add, that I am most affectionately & sincerely your Friend & Obedt Servt

Nathl Scudder

Honble R. H. Lee Esqr

My dear Sir,

~~Menokin~~ Chantilly Nov.r 23. 1779

I regret extremely, as well on public as on private account, that concurrence of accidents which has hitherto prevented, and will for some time prevent me from seeing and conversing with you — I had intended myself this pleasure at your own house in September, and since at Williamsburg but have not been able yet to accomplish my wishes. ~~[illegible]~~ — I am well aware that the present state of our affairs is distressing, and that the wisest are puzzled to point the way to relief. ~~But~~ In this state of affairs, we know that the human mind is most liable to adopt systems without due examination. Systems wh— ~~[illegible]~~ may indeed be productive of much private emolument, but with certain public injury. ~~[illegible]~~ If our affairs ~~[illegible]~~ are badly situated, they demand the strongest exertions of wisdom & virtue to rectify them, and with care to avoid whatever may increase the evil. Great as is our debt, it has hitherto been our happiness & our safety, ~~[illegible]~~ that this debt (a very inconsiderable part excepted) is due entirely to our own Citizens — In most urgent situations ~~to borrow~~, foreign loans may and must be attempted, but reason and experience prove that these had better be obtained from Re=publics, than from Monarchies — The former are more apt to negotiate differences, and patiently to expect satisfaction by peaceable means — The latter with strong & quick hand to seize what they claim. Of the two Creditors every wise man w.d chose the former. It does not lessen the danger, because the contract is with Individuals of a foreign state, ~~because~~ for the government ~~will~~ may truly say that the subject has a right to demand the protection of ~~government~~ the State in just claims, and that a Contract with our Assembly being a contract with Government, justice cannot be obtained in Courts of Law but must be sought for thro the medium of power — This is an awful consideration and demands, our most serious ~~& reflection~~ attention, before we adopt engagements that may involve the most pernicious consequences – If I am not misinformed, there is now a letter shewing in Town from Mr. Beaumarchais which contains passages strongly corroborating this doctrine – as I understand that gentleman threatens in high tone to seize American Vessels if the demand he makes against the United States is not quickly paid! I will not now go into the nature of that demand, but I propose ~~[illegible]~~ incontestable documents to shew it in its true light. This instance is adduced to ~~[illegible]~~ prove in what manner ~~this~~ our Country may be exposed to the most dangerous insults by inconsiderate engagements.

I inclose you a paper concerning Mr. Beaumarchais ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ with this short observation – Mr. Williams is in known connection with some of those who promote Mr. Beaumarchais views, which gives great force to his accounts of that person, and Mons.r Montaudoüin is known to be a Merchant of the first respectability in every point of view – Perhaps you may draw some lights from the inclosed reflections upon a Contract now existing with the Farmers General – And I pray you to preserve the paper for me, as I have ~~no~~ no duplicate of it.

Every schoolboy can state a debt, and the annual payments necessary for its extinction; but an able Financier ~~would~~ can point out resources that are adequate, that are most easy, and that consequently will be paid with the greatest certainty. Heaven would bestow a great favor upon us by blessing this Country with such a Man, and Hell a certain curse by putting ~~there~~ one ~~[illegible]~~ forward who ~~should~~ should, on principle of private gain avail himself of the present distress to promote the adoption of measures that may hereafter plunge the community into the most fatal mischiefs ~~[illegible]~~.

It has never lain in my way to search deeply into the learning of Finance, perhaps there are none here who have done so. Being lately in conversation with a very sensible gentleman, he ~~suggested to me the intention of~~ supposed that good effects might flow from calling in all the Plate in this State and paying interest for it to the Proprietors – To lodge this in the Treasury

Honble

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

Chantilly

Virginia

Favd of the Honble
Mr. Laurens

N. Scudder

1779

~~10410~~

Nathaniel Scudder. N.J.
Nov 5th 1779. 3 letters
(No 329) (No 410)
R. H. Lee's answer within

N°7. Turin ce 14me 9bre 79

Monsieur

Votre lettre m'est parvenue en son tems j'y eusse repondu huit jours plus tost si ma Santé me l'eut permis

Je ne Scais au Sujet des flottes que ce que les avis publics en disent jusques a present elles repondent asses mal a tout ce que ces memes avis en vouloient faire esperer dailleurs La Saison savance et jai bien de la peine a croire que lon soit a tems de faire quelque chose malgre les exemples quon citte pour prouver le Contraire j'ai été Surpris de voir quon cherche un apart a Paris pour Mr Le C d'Estaing si La chose est vraye

Je nen vois pas la raison — Mild Monstua
doit etre actuellement a Paris du moins
o Ly Croit et on lattend bientost ici a
sa destination sans que lon ait jamais
sceu quil dut paſser en espagne — Pour
Le pauvre Eliot je le crois bien comme
vous le dittes hors detat de se meritter
Lestime daucun parti auſsi fait il une
si mince figure quil ne vaut pas la
peine den parler —— Vous me dittes
des choses etonnantes! je suis tombé de
mon haut en les Lisant Quelque foi
que jajoutte a tout ce que vous men
dittes Je ne puis encor entierement
renoncer aux idees de justesse desprit,
de penetration, et de candeur que jai
toujours cru des qualites eſsentiellement
inherantes dans Lindividu en question —

et pour que je vous avois chargé de mes comptes
Je soupsonne quil puiſse y avoir du mal-entendu dans tout cela et il y en aura dans touttes Les affaires Les mechants ſont plus de beſogne que Les honettes gens, les moyens ne leur coutent rien et par ce maudit penchant au mal dont les personnes les plus integres ne Scauroient etre exemptes (preuve de quoi il faut quils y reſistent) narivet il pas que le plus honet homme Se Laiſse Seduire ou pour mieux dire Surprendre meme par un coquin maladroit, vous ne ſcauriez croire combien jen Suis fasché et pour vous et par Les consequences que ceci peut avoir Je voudrois bien ne me pas etre trompé dans ma conjecture et quil vint

un jour d'eclaircissement qui developpat
Le mistere ——— Je vous plains bien d'etre
tombé en si mauvaises mains comme
vous me marqués en entrant dans le pais ou vous
etes Mais il ne faudroit point avoir
a faire a des hommes pour n'en point
courir le risque et ne point les conoitre
pour en etre surpris Il est vrai que
l'homme de bien ne scauroit s'y accoutumer
il se trouve si fort en contradiction avec
cet espece, malheureusement si commune,
qu'il a de la peine a croire ce qu'il touche
et qui lui est arrivé cent fois dans la vie

Je me procurerai le 4me v. de Brit. et
j'y lirai volontiers le detail de ce que
vous me mandez et vous suis fort obligé
Je souhaitte que ma santé puisse me
permettre de le lire.

Jai Lhonneur d'Etre avec la plus parfaitte
consideration
Monsieur

Votre tres humble et tres obt
Ls de Roignan

(No 317)   16 Nov.

I am indebted for 2 Letters of the 6th & 12th. — You will have surely another serious Acct. to settle wth B—d, for keeping his letter so long, which in self defence I must let him know. It seems but just that he shd. have in writing the bargain you made with him abt. the freight, but I do not see what I have to do with the Transfer of the 24000 £. to S. & D: or, what you have to do with it. I have desir'd that any remittances coming to B—x may be address'd to B—d & to Nantes to S. & D. — so that between them they will be sure of the first paymt. — this is as much as they can desire of me or you. As to comn. on the amt. of what you advd. 'tis as just as on any other part, for the trouble was the same, but all reproach may be prevented by a notes, fairly stating the Fact & leaving the State to say yes, or no to the charge. Why wont you tell me whether the Govr. Livingston is ard. or not — the Comodore told me she was. If you can regain yr. two Sols by parting with yr. Louis dors, you will do well, for the two Sols wth. the risk, makes the loss more than by the Exche. I never dreamt of payg a premm. for them otherwise I shd. not have tho't of their being sent. Mr. Wb:—r will not leave Paris these 2 or 3 Weeks, therefore by him you may send one y Amn. Newspapers or Pamphlets you have to Spare, remember that I have not seen any within this twenty years. Yr. Long Island intelligence comg from the Palais Royal does not affect me much, but Im—g havg before pland the whole in Idea, dreams of nothing else but Long Island. I fear the evil Genius of Amca, or his own, will still continue attendant on every motion of the ill fated Count. For the sake of Peace &c, I most heartily wish him success, tho' I do not expect it.

(N° 317)

I take it for granted you have paid my d^{ft} for 11300 Livres to Meſs. Overman, & as soon as poſsible after M^{r}. B. gets over you shall have such an acknowlegm^{t}. as you shall give the form of; for I think it a delicate busineſs & may have serious consequences, therefore will only have your own desire precisely complyed with. Wil you tell me what you know ab^{t}. the Board of Commerce ap^{d}. by the State of Virg^{a}. — Your letters were sent under cover to M^{r}. G. for fear of tricks in the Post Office, but this shall go to y^{r}. Hotel. Have you got from B—d the date of D—nes appl^{n}. to Del—e which B. mentions in the Postcript of his Letter — This may be of much service. Woud it not be of use for 96 to give a certificate of what he knows relating to B...m..A..s first appl^{n} to 97 in London ab^{t}. money to be sent to Am^{ca}.? — It seems certain that the Danes have given up to the B. Minister, the two prizes carried into Bergen in Norway, ~~that were~~ by part of Jones's Squadron. We have not got settled, in which busineſs I find much embarraſsm^{t}., but hope in 8 or ten days to get into our house. You have our best wishes.

Adieu.

P.S. The Man at Ost—d was right in his acc^{t}. ab^{t}. what he might think you had no right to be informed of. The Veſsel was in his name & must stand so, but all precaution that the nature of the case w^{d}. admit, has been taken. She is not rel^{d}. that I know of. ——

(No 317)

I take it for granted you have paid my
Mess. Overman, & as soon as possibl
shall have such an acknowlegemt. a
of; for I think it a delicate businesſ
=sequences, there ^stores^ will only have yo
=plyed with. Will you tell me what y
Commerce as^d. by the State of Virg^a.
under cover to Mr. G. for fear of t
this shall go to yr. Hotel. Have you g
D—nes appl^n. to Del—p which 15.
of this Letter — This may be of muc
of use for 96 to give a certificate o
✓ to B... m.. A... a list of [illegible]
sent to Am^a.?
us. to the B. M
Norway, ~~that~~
settled. in whic
in 8 or ten day
P.S. The Man at
what he might
=form'd of. The
stand so, but all
the case w^d. adm
res^d. that I know

Monsieur Lee
Hotel de la Reine, Rue Neuve
des Bons Enfans Palais Royal
a Paris

Wm. Lee to A Lee
16 Nov. 79

(No 317)

(No. 319)

Dr. Br.

17 Nov. 1779

I wrote to you last night, directed to yr. Hotel as this will be. — Mr. Bondfield's Letter is recd. to which I suppose you will assent. — 'Tis not in my power to assure even the gain of 6 p.Ct. — In every venture there is risk, & 'tis only the fortunate who succeed; but for yr. comfort I can tell you that B. is not very sanguine in his expectations; however I am still content with my chance. —

A certain vessel arriv'd safe at St. Eustatia the 3d. of Augt. but I know nothing more yet. Can you place for me in sure hands, 20, or thirty thousand Livres at 6 p Ct. pr. Anm. Give me an answer to this as soon as you can. — Certain accts. from London that D'Estaing with 22 Ships of the Line & 8 Frigates was off the coast of N. Carolina the 13. 14 & 15 Sept. — This I like, as his chance is much better to succeed, Mr. I—g is by & sends his Compts. You have our Love. Adieu. ———

BRUXELLES

a Monsieur

Monsieur Lee
a l'Hotel de la Reine
Rue Neuve des Bons Enfans
Palais Royale

a Paris

(No 319)

Wm Lee to A Lee
17th Nov. '79

Bordeaux 20 Nov 1777

The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir

I received in due course your favour of the 12th [illegible] Mr. J D are satisfied at the delay of not immediately meeting your assent to the transfer & [illegible] no otherways affect the detention of my [illegible] to your Brother

The Packet has been detained in consequence of the singular proceedings of Mons. Le Ray de Chaumont from the 10th of Octr to Saturday last that the Sloop fell down the River where she at present lays wind bound. This Sloop is fitted out by the order Mons. Le Ray de Chaumont the Instructions to the Capt. are to proceed direct to Philadelphia and there arrived deliver the letters he is charged with as address'd and the Cargo consisting of [illegible] only a small quantity to Mr Holker from whom he is to receive his instructions for his future proceeding. There are no Cloths shipt on board owing to the House here employed not executing the order given. The Packet is called the Agath Captain Brown your letters with them from Mr Izard were put in a [illegible] box [illegible] instructions to the Captain to sink them in

case

case of Capture   I apprehend Doc.r Franklins letter
were forwarded by Mr le Roy de Chaumont with the
dispatches from ye Secretarys office as I have received
none and he certainly could not but be Informed of the Packets
being prepared

The inattention of the Government of Virginia
to your engagements for their account will be a bar in
future from giving the Credit to a State they may require
I hope So Carolina will be more punctual Gillons contract
here is to be reimbursed in twelve months

The Conduct of the States of Holland is not
so firm as their profession at this day might inforce
Lancasters Conduct as I since related is not favourable
in time of Action all private misintelligence ought to
have subsided

They write us from Brest the Army are March'g
down to that Port it is conjectured some new plan in
consequence of the movements in Ireland is projected
No fresh intelligence from No America the advices yesterday
from London of the taking of Jamaica is not credited
should Mr DEstaing lay before New York there is no doubt
of his success -

By advices from Madrid it is incredible
the Sums the Subjects of Spain are paying into the Treasury

without exacting a Sixpence they have to support
three years war at whi d from appearances
Hostilities will have Ceased

It cannot spring from want of intelligence or Ignorance the utility of having regular establisht Packet Boats to sail at a fixt day from some convenient Port to some convenient port in Europe twelve Boats would more than suffice to have every month certain advices conducted on a proper plan. Seamen in America are difficult to procure could it be effected on this side I would engage to have one to sail from this Port the first day of every month and without any way incumbring the vessel ship on board for account of the States in warlike Stores to defray her expences an advance of Six thousand pounds would suffice to set the plan in motion to sail from hence would be convenient for France and Spain. it is not the first land that could be made in coming to Europe but that might not prevent the dispatches being forwarded from the first place at which to the Vessel may be most favorable. it is time some regular establisht plans should be adopted & pursued we have ~~had~~ enjoyed two years Alliance and are yet months without knowing each others motions. Mr Izards arrival in America will be of service

I have the honor to be respectfully Sir Your most Obedt Hble Servt
John Bondfield

Nº 330

My Dr. Br. Bruxelles Nov: 30. 1779.

I send you inclosed a copy of my letter to Congress I request you will be so good as to write to yr. confidential correspondents there to endeavor to obtain a speedy remittance for what they may determine to allow me. On the 6 Augt. last Cong. resolv'd that the Comrs. in Europe should have as a gratuity besides their reasonable expences, the sum of 11428 Livres p. an. to commence on their leavg. their residence to enter on their Commn. and to continue 3 Months after they receive due notice of their recal. For this gratuity will be due to me 26189 Livres, exclusive of what they may think due to me on the head of expences. On the same day viz Aug. 6th. 79 Congress resolv'd that the Comrs. & others who had had the management of the Public money shd. send their Accts. & vouchers to the board of Treasury, after they had been examin'd & reported upon, by a person to be appointed by Congress for that purpose. This resolution cannot be supposed to refer to any Comrs. but those in France who have had in their hands very large sums of the Public money & not to Mr. Izard or myself who have never been entrusted with enough to pay our Expences, therefore if we are to wait till an examiner is appointed & he pleases to certify our Accts. we may look on our claim for gratuity & Expences as a ______ debt. Besides, where is this examiner to be station'd, that those who are dispersed over Europe may find him to report on their Accts.? — From the present temper of the times wth. you, the necessity is evident of immediately urging the Legislature of Virga. to make remittances without delay for the amt. of the Stores which my Br. & myself obtaind from the French Ministry for that State ~~&~~ the amt. of the expences incurr'd for freight &c, an acct. of wch. has been frequently transmitted to the late & present Governor.

I have written to the present Governor advising how to address

those

those remittances & I must again request of you to urge this business at the
first meeting of the assembly. When the Ships sail'd from France last
Spring that carried those Stores there were many other Amn. vessels
to sail at the same time amongst them, some with Stores for Cong:
Dr. Franklin was applied to for the Congress Frigate the Alli=
ance to go as their Convoy; he promised she should, but when
they were to sail the Alliance was countermanded & kept all the
summer in the service of Mr. Chaumont, the consequence was,
as no doubt Dr. Franklin expected, several of the Amn. vessels
were taken & amongst them the Hunter Capt. Robins, with a
valuable Cargoe on Acct. of the State of Virginia. If the State
does not apply to Congress to make Dr. Franklin answer
for this proceeding he may with reason think himself the
Emperor & Master of America. Mr. Izard has full docu=
=ments with respect to this business & can state the whole
clearly if it is necessary.

The Publick News of this day will be stale before this can reach
you, however such as it is, Mr. Izard will give it to you particu=
=larly; but I will add that the continuance of War another year
is certain for neither France or Spain seem to have the least indi=
=nation for Peace; in my opinion unless Dr. Franklin is speedily
removed & an honest sensible man is in his room, & on yr.
part you show more Independence in Spirit than is to be found
in some of yr. late Public proceedings, America must be ruin'd
& become the prize of the successful combattant in Europe; this you
may be assured is the secret butt of the Politics on both sides.

Poland in our Day is a lamentable example of a very great &
powerful Republic being ruin'd & loosing both its Liberties &
Independence by suffering a powerful foreign State to inter=
fere by intrigue & cabal, under the mask of Friendship, in
the appointment & changing the great Officers of the Republic.

I send you 8. Parliamentary Registers by Mr. Iz, of the last session of Parliament, from which you will receive much entertainmt. if you have not seen them before. I wish [illegible] heartily that America by a bold exertion may finish her War before the Spring, for if this is not done, be not surprized to see the better half of Europe in arms against us before 12 Mos. pass over. I this moment see by the English Papers what a hopeful pair Congress has sent to Spain; to compleat the business Govr. Johnstone shd. be sent in the same Capacity to Versailles & Mr. Silas Deane as his Secretary. How will poor America escape from such hands? Let me hear from you soon. My Love to you all. adieu.

N:B. I open'd this after it was seal'd to take out the copy of the Letter to ye Come. of foreign correspondence, because I have not sent the Originale

~~No 254~~

W Lee (No 330)

Wm Lee's to Mon

N.W.

Nov. 3d–12th 1779

Hon Lovell

No 86 254

1779

Copy 31

Dear Sir, Falmouth 1st. Decr. 1779.

Dec. 1, 1779

Being thus far on my way up the country I have here received a letter by the post from Phila. in which a Member of Congress thus expresses himself "There is undoubtedly a capital emberkation on foot (meaning from N. York) I fear for Savannah, Charles Town, or your Neighborhood" I could not omit giving you this intelligence, that witht. alarming, measures may be taken to prevent injurious surprizes, and to be in the best possible posture to prevent insult—

I have always been of opinion that if part of the french fleet did not winter here that our enemies, rather than remain inactive

at N. York this

this winter, would attempt something southward, in order to get a better peace if peace was their object, or to if war was their design, to raise the national pulse by some successful stroke — Since the evacuation of R. Island. I understand the whole force at N. York to be between 12 & 16 thousand men — Of these they may spare 6000 to try experiments —

I am dear Sir sincerely
yours

Richard Henry Lee

A. Lee to Abbé Niccoli, Dec. 7. 1779. — "I have not the least doubt, since my conference with Count Vergennes upon the papers which you said, that he is at the bottom of the whole of the proceedings against me. I am equally persuaded that his object is to prevent me from going to the court of Madrid, or obtaining its confidence. What fell from him persuaded me, that he had attempted to effect the latter. Taking this for granted, the question is, whether it is most prudent to return to my own country, or go immediately to the court of Madrid, or wait here till time and events may render the propriety of the step I take less doubtful."

(Book in Dept. of State)

[redacted]

Dear Sir

I should have wrote you long since and I have quoted you any thing certain, but Events was such that didnt admit my determining soon some of them Small matters to you & referred it till I have ye pleasure of seeing you, on arrival there I Received your friendly Letters also those of your worthy Brothers, I waited on my Business & was Assured of every Protection, found it Necessary to apply to ye President of ye Maritime Society first, when difficulties was made abt. ye Quantity of Water at ye Entrance of Stettin Harbour, there actually being no more than 8 a 9 feet Water, that diffy. was Removed by proposing to have Camellas Built, I proposed going to Stettin was Advised to ye Contrary, their Chief Ship Builder was Sent for, Plans was given & proportions Returned wherein One of ye Smallest Frigates was charged at abt. £ 200,000 with nothing but her Hull, Masts, Spars, Sails Rigging, Anchors & Cables compleat to go to Sea as a Merchant man, but no time would be fixd for ye Delivery, I then thot of applying to Merchts. & other Builders, found I should meet with an Opposition from ye first, I sent for Plans & drafts to ~~[illegible]~~ Jorrhpkdjhp, & for an able Builder which was agreed to, I then wrote to see Mr. de G when was Afraid I had best be as private as possible & not go near any of ye Ministers; on Observing I conceived it my duty to be Assured of ye same Assistance that was given to any foreign Merchts. who came to Build Ships or Buy Goods there, Mr. Har. agreed to go & have ye Hour fixd of an Interview, when he was Asked do you know this Mr. Gillon, a Question that alarmd him, when he was told that whh Mcpj had wrote to gh dghtlh & to Mr.

Other Matters that happend there will not do to Commit to Paper —
yet I will mention one Affair that arose ere I got there, a Gentlem: at
Hamburg writes to his friend at Berlin, there is a Mr Gillon going your
way, to prosecute much business, he is a mere adventurer that run away
early from his friends, is much indebted in France & will offer Bills
that are false & not Good, I esteem ye House he will apply to, please
therefore timely advise them, to be on their Guard agt this designing Man
— ye Reply was Mr Gillon is very strongly recomd to us, & whatever orders he
brings us for advances we will take his Bills for if for a Million —
this Scheme failing I suppose ye other was immediately studied if I
mistake not I well know from what Source ~~they~~ those Schemes flew from —
it seems Edtgp Ly8thpqv is little thot of there, tho he really
to me seems willing to serve our Country, I have been detained here a
few days by Sickness, but hope to set of to morrow for Amsterdam —
where will be happy to hear from you directed to me & under cover
to Messrs Nicolaas & Jacob Van Staphorst Mercht there & will
thank you for favs me with your latest Advices from home as I am
without any or any Intelld from any Quarter, please presnt my
best Respects to Mrs Izard & family, what think you of ye Alliances
situation, I mean ye Ship, do you not think it is best to buy 2 a 3 well
Armd Vessels instead of Materials, will you favr me with your Opinion
for I am totally without orders as cannot Execute ye first Plan, thus need
much ye Advice & Support of such firm friends to their country as you &

(No 32 Cop.) Amsterdam 8 Decr.

Yesterday brot us the English Mails, advices from N. York as late as Nov. 1st. & no certain acct of :tain, but reports in the L. Gazette of his fleet being disper the 4 Sept. by a storm on the coast of So. Carolina, which seem to be contradicted by the Amn papers. An Extr. from a Phil paper in Sept. says, the late President of C. Jn Jay Esq is apd. Minister Plenipo: to the Ct. of Spain in the room of A. Lee Esq. recall'd — & — Carmichael Esqr is appd. his Secretary after this, ~~this~~ abt. the 2d. Oct. Gerard set off for Boston in his way to France accompanied by Silas Deane Esq. D—ges writes from L—n that the differences between the L's & F. & D. were turnd agt. the first from their Families being generally in opposition to Washington. There is a great deal of general American news which you will see in the papers. There does not appear much prospect of Mr. I—ds going away soon, I shall leave this in 3 or 4 daies & return home to B. where I shall hope to hear from you. Adieu —

N.B. Mr. I. has just recd. yrs of difft. dates with extracts of Letters. We suppose you will be planing how to proceed when Jay arrives, & to take care of yr. papers, they are too important to be trusted on Sea without [illegible] veyance is unexceptionable, & perhaps they will not be safe where you are, if you think so, cannot Ledwell be sent with them to me, with young Boardley when he comes to B.

The Frigate that brings Jay may be a good conveyance for you, if the same game is not played again, that was with Mr. A. ab: the Alliance. This Ship & the rest are still in the Texel, from whence nothing material has been heard since I came here. It seems to me that our Affairs (as to the Public) have been going wrong for some time past, & it is more than probable that our Enemies will gain ground every day. Farewell.

Wi
the
All
noth
to an
some
will

Il avoit fait
Elle avoit fait
Il ~~est fait~~
Elle ~~est faitte~~
Connue

D'HOLLANDE

à Mons

Monsieur Lee,

Hotel de la Reine, Rue Neuve
des Bons Enfans Palais Royal
Paris

~~No. 47.~~
No. 235.

(No 320)

Wm Lee to Arthur Lee
Dec. 8th 1779(?)

(~~No. 235~~)

Bordeaux 11 Dec 1779

Honble Arthur Lee Esq

Sir

By the Committee arrived at Nantes you would be advised of the intended changes in the European department. The Nantois say the Mr Jay is destined for Spain this I apprehend to be an error as it appears more probable he is to replace your Brother at the Northern Courts ~~and~~ Mr Livingston is to replace Mr Izard at Turin, Mr Carmacheal is to assume his appointment to the Embassage at Paris this is the line I lay down of the new appointed, Penet is agent for the State of Virginia what the Views of that State are in forming him their Agent I cannot foresee unless he has contracted to supply them with Articles and to receive the returns as they can make them which may have influenced the Council in his favor

The Letters I have received are of September of course contain no Interesting publick inteligence but by Letters from Nantes they write me the General Mercer Capt Robinson arrived at Philadelphia 3. 8bre with Frith prize he took on the passage if so your packets must have gone to hand and answers ought to have been transmitted by this Ship ~~that~~ as the sailed the 26. 8ber from the River it is uncertain where the Confederacy will arrive as all ports are to them equal they will possibly arrive at Corunna being the first Land

Ross I find has settled his accounts at Paris by which I learn there is a balleance due him of eighteen Thousand pounds (Sterl) he must have had very Capital Commissions if his gains amounts to the balleance he proposes to go with Captain Green but first to make a tour to this City to settle his accounts with Mr Delap to whom he stands indebt but finding cause to complain of some sales of Tobacco Mr Delap had in his hands the accounts cannot be liquidated without ~~and~~ a review of the facts ~~which~~

Mr Livingston that is coming over pray is he the late Governor of the Jerseys . Carmichael will become a man of great Consequence if it possible America will continue to appoint Men so little qualified to reflect

splendour

her experience in Mr Deane was a sufficient proof how short the like appointments tended to the End proposed Governor Livingston his manners will be a great contrast to them of Turin Mr Izard tho possibly not so pleasing a writer would have been much better qualified for that Court — Gillon I find meets with every protection he can hope at Lo. . R Morris writes me he has taken under his protection Mr Holker by wch every advantage the [illegible] extensive concerns he has to transact will benefit by Mr Morris's inteligence. I am most respectfully

Sir
your very hble Servt
John Bondfield

Bordeaux 13 Decr 1779

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir

There never came Intelligence less expected than that brought by the Man of War arrived at Rochfort from Georgia the reports spread on that Subject appears not so founded in Facts as views that appear intended to operate in Consequence. The Commissaire Ordonateur the Officer at the Head of the Marine department at this place in Conversation with him yesterday stated that our officers were Jealous of the Laurels France acquired by the part she acted in our affairs that General Washington could not admit any portion of Equality, all the French Officers returned home disgusted. Rhode Island in the first attempt fell thro from a designed failure in Genl Sullivan not Coöperating as was projected with him Ct D'Estaing, and in this last affair at Savannah Ct D'Estaing was assured the Garrison consisted of 3000 which report engaged his making the Attack where he found a resistance supported by upwards of 6000 Men these are the heads, many other

to

to the same ~~[illegible]~~ purpose. I cannot entertain a doubt that a man in [illegible] Dept. would hazard reflections so [illegible] [illegible] sentiments that are so opposite to them & so their interest to cement, and so contradictory to their former tenor, without the establishment of some new system. whether it is pointed against Mr. Holker who is regarded as an intruder in the Corps de Marine of the United States is not yet sufficiently open but that the application which in all probability will be made to the Minister for assistance of ships the ensueing year will meet with opposition in the Cabinet is probable & Mons. Guichen has not left some ships to cooperate with and cover the Southern States this Winter will be subject to new incursions from the Enemy their Superiority at Sea giving them uncontroled Command.

Messrs. Smith and Walls delivered me your favor of the 4th. I shall be attentive to render them every service in my power. your letters shall be forward by the next Opportunity and agreable to your instructions.

I have heard J. A. [illegible] paint in Colours the most favorable the Conduct of D. F. The Confederacy

being

men is daily expected The Spaniards are much irritated against the Portugueze for the protection the British Frigs & prizes meet at Lisbon Jones's entrance and stay at the Texel perplexes the States of Holland a New Edict from Versailles has deprived them of some Capital Commercial priviledges the Citys of Amsterdam excepted

I am respectfully

Sir

Your most Obedient
Humble Servant
John Bondfield

Arthur Lee

respecting his recall, and the opinion of the French Ministry in regard to him.

(Book in Dept. of State)

To Count Sarsefield, - Paris, Dec. 15th 1779. - "I had sent me from Congress a paper laid before them by the authority of M. Gerard, and another by that of M. Holker; the first of which gives an opinion that I am unfit to be minister, either at the Court of Versailles or Madrid, because I am disagreeable to, & suspected by, both. In support of this a letter from Count Vergennes to M. Gerard is cited, which says "Je craigns M. Lee et ses entours". The other is a letter from M. de Chaumont to Holker, which says Mr Adams will not succeed here because he is governed by me, who am a "fou, et plus Anglois que francois dans l'ame".

"I went to Count Vergennes with copies of these papers. Upon reading them, he seemed to acknowledge, that he might have written some such letter, and said his suspicion was founded on my sending my secretary to London, where there was a great deal of gaming in the stocks upon the signing of the treaty, and by that means secrets got out. He said he understood I was connected with stock-jobbers. I asked ~~them~~ him, who they were. He could not tell. I reminded him of my having shown him the attestation of a gentleman, that Mr Deane's secretary gave notice, when the treaty would be signed, and offered to prove to him not only that I was not concerned in any such proceeding, but who were so concerned. He declined entering into it as a party dispute, and appearing more desirous of softening the sense I manifested of his unworthy conduct, than of acknowledging or reforming it, he pressed me to go up to dinner with him. I complied with manifest reluctance, leaving a memoir which I carried with me, and in which I stated, that if after the solemn aſsurances he had given me, and the entire confidence I had put in him, what M. Gerard aſserted were true; I must return and give an account to my constituents of what had happened. To this I have received no answer.

"From something that fell from him during the conversation I have reason to believe, that he has used the same means of destroying my credit in Spain as in Congreſs. He did not expreſs the least disapprobation of the conduct of Gerard, Holker, and Chaumont, than which nothing can be more base and outrageous. A motion was grounded immediately on these proceedings for my recall but it did not succeed. A second attempt was made and rejected. Is it poſsible to imagine anything more disagreeable, than to see a secretary of State, a minister plenipotentiary, and a consul general of France, banded against an individual, committing the character of their court in league with a faction, and all this without succeſs?

"Since that, my answer to Mr Deane, and my preſsing request to be recalled have been received, and in consequence Mr Jay, the President, is appointed in my place.

"The question now is, whether I should depart from hence without taking any further notice of what has passed, or state the whole in a memorial to M. de Maurepas or to the king himself, demanding justice against those, who have thus injured me, and fomented discord and faction in America".

Williamsburg Decem.r 16th 1779. —

Captain Cunningham.

Sir —

With the materials with which I have now supplied you I expect you will be ready to embark on a Cruize in a short time with the Men under your command now and such as Mr Lloyd shall enlist to the time of your sailing. The Company to whom the Privateer Phenix belongs have instructed Mr Phripſs and my Self to give such directions as appear to us neceſsary for my part I shall rely in a great measure on your skill and judgment in this Cruize, knowing you are so much better acquainted with these things than my-self and only give general directions in particular circumstances. you are I presume to proceed to the West Indies and there endeavour to apprehend some of the English Veſsels either those belonging to any of their Islands or Countries except Bermudas or the Bahama Islands, or should you hear that the Portuguese are actually taking our Veſsels in that case you may Seize any of theirs. If you make any captures of any Ships or Veſsels above described you are to send them into this State directing them to Mr Phripſs and my Self, but if you should

know

know that our State is Stopt up in that case you will order them to Philadelphia to the care of Mr. Morris or the nearest Port giving Orders that immediate notice be sent by Express to Mr. Thripps and myself. Should any accident happen to you at Sea and a refit be necessary you will apply to Mr. Isaac Gouverneur at Curracoe to my Mr Rawleigh Colston at Surrinam with my Letters of Credit or any others on whom Mr. Thripps shall give you credit for such assistance as you may want which expence is to be charged to the Company as your Men are not enlisted to serve longer than some time in January should they insist any of them to return home to Boston when their time is expired you are by no means to go there with your Vessel but rather put such Men on board some Vessel that may be going to Boston the terms of their enlistment do not oblige you to carry them home at the end of the time, and the Company will by no means agree that the Vessel should be carried so far out of her way. If you prove unsuccessful during the continuance of your Provisions and Stores which I expect will serve you three Months after they are expended you are to return home to receive another recruit of necessaries and Men which are to be engaged on Account of the Company but at present I have

obliged

obliged myself and Meſsrs. Willing and Morris to find a three Months Supply of all neceſsaries whatever, Powder I put over a thousand weight you will remember is our property after the Cruize is over by agreement.

You are to send me before you sail from York a perfect Account of all your disbursements since you came to this Country and the articles that have been added to your Veſsel &ca. Mr. Reynolds at York will supply you with any thing further you may have occasion for there.

Those of the Company that are here have agreed that if you are out near three Months & can take no Prizes, in that case you may return to Boston to discharge these Men and inlist others for a five Months Voyage and that you will apply to Mr. Rowe for such neceſsaries as you may want until you can get here to take in your Stores for a further Cruize.

You will remember to send with any Veſsel you may take all the Papers belonging to said Veſsel with respect to her clearance, Voyage, Owners &ca

Carter Braxton

State of Maſsachusetts Bay }
Boston ſs }

a true Copy of the
Original as on rec
in my Notarial off
att. Ezek.l Price
Not. Pub.

from Porter Brayton
to Captain Cunningham

(No 331)

Decr. 18th 1779

Dear Sir

Yr. Favr. of Novr. 30th reached me too late on Tuesday the 14th to permit a Line in Return. I now send what you asked for, and some french Vouchers intended originally for you. I add some Letters recd. last Evening.

I am now to surprise you more than heretofore by telling that Thursday last being fixed upon for the Election of a Secretary to Doctr. Franklin or rather the Embassy which Lt. Col. Laurens had not accepted the day passed without even a Nomination. But yesterday Mr. Mathews named G Morris who is making all Smooth to obtain it. I had intended to name Col. Hamilton. Ellery however was beforehand & put me up. I pursued my Intention & Mr Plater named a Col. Stewart of Maryland — I mentioned to Congress that I should not

as some time ago desire
my name to be withdrawn
as I had not the Opinion of
a Self denying Ordinance
which I then had, and was
fortified in my Change of
Sentiments by the late Proceedings
of Congress. I declared that my
Wish was not implyed but my
meer Consent if the Ballots
should not happily be general
for another. I am pained
at my present Situation

You must be
free in yr. Opinion upon
this Conduct, let the Event
be what it may.

yrs. affectionately
James Lovell

I shall attend very particularly to
yr. Memoranda formerly sent
if I should be under the Necessity
of leaving this City soon.

I have detained an open Address of
Secy. Lee dated July 12. 1779 supposing you

have published what I sent before
It begins "In 1778" & ends "made them"

I will fix a Cypher with you.

J Lovell

1779

(No 331)

Embassy to Spain

(No. 321) Bruxelles Decr. 19. 1779.

I wrote to you from Amstm. & now send you a paper inclosed to Mr. I—d by Mr. Lloyd from Bermuda; S. D—ne is, I think, evidently the writer. If you have seen it before & have a copy I would wish this to be return'd. Can you give us the particulars truly of Ct. D'Estaings proceedings in G. & So. C—a, for we have here a thousand contradictory & absurd reports. May it not be proper to think of taking care of papers, they will be safe here & if necessary Ludwell might be sent with them when Mr. Boardley comes. When I left Amstm. Mr. I— had no certain prospect of getting away. Jones in the Alliance was in the Texell but under positive orders from the States Genl. to sail the moment wind & weather wd. permit.—

Little Portia is attack'd with a bilious complaint that is turning to the Jaundice. You have our best Love. Adieu

P.S. I inclose a dft on Mr. Grand payble. to Mr. Boardley ~~Lee~~ in person for £2400. which I request Mr. G. to pay him in Louidors for Mr. B. to bring with him here for me, if he is not come away before this gets to hand. Should Mr. B. be come away pray return me the dft.

a Monsieur
Monsieur Lee,
Hôtel de la Reine, Rue Neuve
des Bons Enfans Palais Royal
a Paris

(N°321)

Wm Lee to A Lee
Dec. 19th 1779

1775

from the person, who gave me
ceived information of the Invasion of
these Paragraphs. I trace a firm Union
als of every opposing party, & that they will
ee ridiculous & dangerous points, for which
rely struggled; I see the prospect of some Salutary
(perhaps a partial) alteration in little more than three
Months, & some genuine Gleams of Spirit, which breaking
out with decent persevering firmness, may heal some
wounds, of which the scars must yet remain" this is perhaps
comfortable, but see what follows I am pleased with & most
cordially assent to the Justice of your Remarks, but in the
very moment that I desire you sh'd to honour me with them
let me assure you, from the first Authority, that Lord
Chatham's Idea relative to the Impossibility (the
constitutional impossibility as it is now called) of formally
& parliamentary avowing the Independance of America
is (at least the ostensible) tenet of every ~~Member~~
Member of Opposition. they acknowledge that America
this valuable limb of which the blood vessels led directly

to the Heart of the Empire,
they will not acknowledge
it is not necessary to make any
knavery & folly of faction are
I find by a Letter from Maryland,
understood there, that Mr. Jay comes
minister to Spain. but what is become
Confederacy. I expect my respectful remembrance
to yours and believe me to be

Decr. 22. 1779.

Yours sincerely

Coreville

P.S. I just now hear that Mr J Adams is coming over & Mr Lawrence's son. the first brings with him certain Terms & is to attend the Negociations & the latter is to be Secretary to the Commission in France.

Dear Sir Amsterdam 23d. Decr. 1779.

I lament exceedingly the unlucky business which M. d'Estaing has been engaged in at Savannah, & fear that the English may take advantage of it, and reinforce Genl. Prevost so strongly that he may be again troublesome to the Southward. If the Enemy can establish themselves in a strong Post, or two either in Georgia, or Carolina, they will be able to carry on the war in the West Indies to great advantage. If the French do not immediately send a strong Naval force across

the Atlantic, they will I fear lose
some of their Islands. I thank you for
the money you lent me; & as I have
obtained a credit [illegible] which enables
me to repay you, I desire that
you will draw for the amount of
what I owe you on Messrs. Nicholas
& Jacob Van Staphorst Merchants in
this City; at Thirty days sight, and
deliver my Note of hand to my Wife.
She writes me that you intend going to
America as soon as you receive your
recall officially, which I think you are

much in the right of. You will probably be on the Continent before me, as my passage to St. Eustatia is longer than yours, & it is likely I may meet with some delay. [illegible] that Island. You will I ho[illegible] [illegible]ite to me as soon as you arrive, & direct to me in Charles Town, where I shall probably be in April. As soon after that as I can with convenience, I intend setting out for Philadelphia, to visit some friends in that City, & hope to have the pleasure of meeting you there. I am with great regard D. S. Your friend &c

Ra.. Izard.

Beaumarchais's Pamphlet, suppressed by order of the King.

Arthur Lee to R. Izard. Dec. 24. 1779. — "Beaumarchais has published a pamphlet in answer to the English *Memoire Justificative*, — vain, false, and assuming like himself. The king and his council have published a little criticism upon it, in the following arrêt.

"De Paris le 21 Dec. 1779. – Le Roi étant informé qu'il s'est repandu dans le public un Imprimé ayant pour titre, – "Observations sur le Memoire Justificatifs de la Cour de Londres, par Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais". Sa Majesté y auroit remarqué avec surprise, autres differentes assertions hazardées et qualifications trop peu menagées; que l'auteur auroit etabli en fait, qu'il exist dans le traité de Paris de 1763, une stipulation soit publique, soit secrete, qui limiteroit le nombre des vaisseaux, que la France pourroit entretenir. Cette allegation étant entierement contraire à la verité, et dementie tant par le traité, qui ne renferme aucun article secret, que par les actes que l'ont precedé et suivi, Sa Majesté auroit estimé ne pouvoir laisser subsister une assertion aussi fausse et aussi absurde. Considerant en autre que cet ecrit a étés publié et repandu en contravention aux reglemens de la librairie, Sa Majesté etant en son conseil, de l'avis de Garde des Sceaux, a ordonné et ordonne que le dit Imprimé sera et demeura supprimé".

"Among other things hazardés et trop peu menagés, is, that the king of France knew the Court of London expended millions in bribing Congress & the deputation at Paris."

Copy Lettr Book V. C[illegible]

Committee of Correspondence (No 24)

Gentlemen Paris Decr 25th 1779

I had this day the honor of receiving yours of Oct. 13th notifying to me, by the Resolve of Congress, of the same date, of Mr. Jay's appointment, & my recall. As Mr. Jay is not yet arrived, I suppose it my duty to wait his coming; that I may [illegible] to him, what is within my knowlege, that [illegible] in his department. It does not appear that it has pleased Congress, to give any orders about the immediate return of the Confederacy & taking me on board, without which it may be many months before I can find a passage in any other manner. Mr. Izard has been waiting at Amsterdam for two months, to get even to St. Eustatia in his way home.

The plans of the Enemy, of which I advised you in mine of the 13 Octr & 6th of Novr are carrying into execution with vigor. Admiral Rodney has probably sail'd by this time. The Ministry appear to be tottering, but unfortunately for us, if they do go out, they will give place to men by far more formidable to us in wisdom, œconomy, popularity & confidence both foreign & domestic. I feel it therefore in the strongest manner my duty to conjure Congress to prepare for a Campaign which in all human probability will be urg'd with the utmost vigor, & to call forth every resource of ho[illegible] for the support of public credit, without any [illegible] assistance. Such assistance is too preca[illegible] our cause on, & strong exertions on our part will give it, should it exist, a surer & more speedy effect. Congress may rely upon it, that, on no terms whatsoever, will our Independence be acknowleg'd at present by G. Britain.

There are granted for the service of the ensuing year 178,950 men, including 42000 Militia

Secret Committee

and it is supposed that 77000 will be employed in America & the Islands. The removal of all restrictions on the export of wool, woolens & glass-ware from Ireland to Asia, Africa & America, the U. S. excepted, it is probable will prevent any immediate commotions in that kingdom; & it is certain that the british Court have not such apprehensions from that quarter, as to prevent them from pursuing their operations against you in their utmost extent. I have &c.

A. Lee

(No 324)

A. Lee to Secret Comee. (No 116) Dec. 25th. 1779

~~[illegible] 1779~~

At the request of the Honble Arthur Lee I have this day compared the above with his letter Booke page 144 and find it to be an exact copy

Philada.
May 8th. 1783.

Thedk. Bland Jr.

~~N.W.~~ No. 116

(No. 325)

Dear Br.

Bruxelles Dec. 29. 79

This moment I recd. yrs of the 26th & as soon as I find the letter will send the extract desir'd; tho' now I do not see the use of it; however as my advice has seldom had any weight I shall say no more. Pray return me the dft to Mr. Beardley by the first post & at same time in:form me if you know of any body that is trustworthy coming this way soon, that I may send you a dft for the 100 Louisdors, to send to me; for my pocket grows very light & the loss on Exch.a is so great that I wish to avoid it if I can. Tell me how to direct to Dr. Bourlig if he intends to continue much longer in Paris. I wrote to you last night under cover & beg you will answer me abt. the letters to Mr. Grand. I cannot account for his not answering any of my letters since I came here.

You certainly see the London papers & of course the Gazettes, which will give you all the news we have here; & from Ama., you have what is authentic, which you (no doubt for good reasons) have kept to yourself. I have not yet seen Mr. I—gs, who probably will take a trip to yr. Metropolis, as soon as he knows that the Cargoe of the Confederacy is arriv'd. Let the Mission of Mr. A. be what it will, I apprehend it will not be entirely pleasing to somebody. We send our Love to you & Ludwell. Adieu

Do you want Pauly to go wth. you & if you do not, I shall discharge him in a week or ten daies.

BRUXELLES

a Monsieur
Monsieur Lée,
l'Hotel de la Reine Rue Neuve
des bons Enfans, Palais Royal
à Paris

(No 325)

Wm Lee to A. Lee
Dec. 29th 1779

1779

Sir

I am honoured with your
esteemed favor of the 22 Instant in consequen
of which I send you inclose Duplicate of my
Account of Disbursements for the State of
Virginia with my receipt at foot which
made in the form you mean will ſend you
two others as you direct. — Herein is also
Copy of the order given me the 10. feb.y last
by the Honourable the Comiſsioners for the
delivery

30 Dec 79

O÷ delivery of the Plate to Cap Jones & it was in Virtue of this Letter that I (not Dr. Franklin) gave directions to Mr. Berubé de Costentin to deliver it, after it would have been properly evaluated which was done & esteemed worth about £3000.tt the whole.—

Permit me to present you the Compliments of the ſeason in mine & my Famil ſincere Wishes for your Felicity & happineſs being with much respect & ſincerity

Your mo: hbb & ob ſervant
J. Dl. Schweighauser

Nantz 30 Xber 1779

If Dr. Franklin has given an order to M De Costentine I have not known any thing of it & in my next to Sd Costentine will enquire

To the Honourable A Lee Esqr.

Mr Lee was unpopular in Virginia & particularly with the legislature. There were two causes of suspicion of Mr Lee's character, which operated to his disadvantage in Virginia. The first was, that he sent over his secretary Thornton to England, with the view of communicating intelligence to the English government. This was unquestionably a mistake. Thornton went over to gain intelligence respecting the preparations that were making to fit out the fleet at Portsmouth. He betrayed his trust, however, and gave intelligence in London, or at least joined himself with persons engaged in the stock-jobbing business in such a way as to excite just suspicions. When Mr Lee found it out he dismissed him. His private letters to Thornton clearly prove, that he had no designs of this kind in sending him to England. It would have been better, if, in vindicating himself, Mr Lee had not endeavored to fix the same charge upon his associate commissioners, where the testimony was equally futile as that against him. Circumstances were such, that these suspicions went abroad and produced their effect against Mr Lee, who was believed, particularly in Virginia, to be in the English interest.

The second cause of suspicion.

was also connected with his Secretary, Ford, whom he took in place of Thornton. A rumor went abroad greatly to the disadvantage of this person. Gov. Henry wrote to Congress, when informed that Ford was Mr Lee's secretary, "that he was a dangerous and unfit man to be in such a place, being strongly suspected of being a disaffected seditious person, in league with the enemy, and guilty of forging paper money." This was communicated to Mr Lee after Ford had left him for America, and caused in him much surprize, as Ford's conduct had been of the most exemplary kind while with him and as far as he had heard of him in England and France. Whatever may have been Ford's character he was faithful to Mr Lee; but this suspicion, added to the one above, contributed to keep alive the suspicion that Lee was in some way connected with the English. The worst that can be said of him, in regard to these secretaries is, that he was deceived in ~~regard to~~ their characters, & that he should have been more cautious.

There was probably not a truer patriot in America, than Arthur Lee, nor one more firm and decided in the course he professed to pursue. There is not a glimpse of proof that he had any bias affection or interest towards England, which could be considered as compromitting his attachment to his own country, or his zeal for her cause. His faults of temper and indiscretion were innumerable, and made him a very unfit man for the post he held abroad, but the reproach of leaning towards the enemies of his country, or of seeking personal ends of profit or gain, cannot be applied to him without marked injustice.

(No 284)

Extract of a Letter from John Lloyd Esqr. dated Paim-beuf March 22d. 1779.—

The day before yesterday a letter was received here from Nantes addressed by Dr. Franklin to Messrs. W. Blake, D. Blake, J. Johnson, R. A. Fendall, S. Wharton, M. Ridley, J. Ross, J. Lloyd, C. Ogilvie & J. D. Schweighauser requesting in a particular manner that we would examine the accounts of Mr. Jn. Williams and report our opinion thereupon. Mr. Wharton who was here, set off immediately for Nantes, from whence he is not yet returned, the Gentlemen wait to see him before they determine upon a reply. With respect to myself I cannot possibly defer my embarkation, nor do I apprehend either of the Mr. Blakes are the least disposed to it

The Gentlemen thus addressed (Mr. Johnson & Mr. Schweighauser excepted) were summoned by the Convoy to go down to Paim-beuf on the 6th. of March. Mr. Williams was at Nantes and knew this. It was notorious at Paris in a few days; they had repaired to Paim-beuf accordingly and expected to sail hourly. Could it then be seriously expected that they would give up their voyages and return to Nantes, to examine the accounts of Mr. Williams? Do such manuvres as these remove or confirm suspicions?

The Gentlemen sailed and these poor unfortunate accounts, spight of all the anxiety of the Uncle and Nephew remain unsettled.

Dr. Franklin however being determined however that justice should be done to the Public made another attempt by the following letter.

To Messrs. S. Wharton, M. Ridley, J. Johnson, M. Mease, J. Ross, L. Nesbitt, — Cummings, J. Gridley & J. D. Schweighauser Merchts. at Nantes

Passy April 8th. 1779—

Gentlemen,

Great objections having been made by the Honourable Mr. Arthur Lee, to the accounts of Mr. Jn.

Williams late agent for the Commiſsioners at Nantes, which are therefore yet unsettled; and as not being conversant in mercantile busineſs I cannot well judge of them, & therefore, as well as for other reasons, I did not & cannot undertake to examine them myself & they may be better examined at Nantes where the busineſs was transacted, than either here or in America; I beg the favour of you, Gentlemen, that you would, for the sake of justice and the public good, take that trouble upon you and make report to me thereupon which I do hereby agree shall be conclusive & final (subject only to the revision of Congreſs) in case Mr. Williams shall previously sign an engagement to abide thereby. If it should not suit you all to attend to this busineſs, I shall be content with the judgement of as many of you as can and will attend it, the number not being leſs than three: If an equal number should undertake it and be divided in their opinions, I request them to join in chusing an Umpire that the matter may be concluded. I did desire Mr. Lee, if he had any farther objections, to furnish you with them; but he has in a letter to me declined it. — I have the honour &c.

Signed B. Franklin

P.S. Hoping you will comply with my request, I have ordered Mr. Williams to lay his accounts fully before you.

This Letter bids fair to bring the busineſs to the desired iſsue. Of the persons mentioned, Meſsrs. Wharton & Ridley sailed with the fleet, Meſsrs. Mease & Nesbitt are, as I am informed, at L'Orient. Of the others those who have not an end to serve in it will naturally decline medling with an affair which, least they should not have known it, particular care is taken to announce as a party matter, by introducing my name in the manner it is mentioned. Provision is made for three to suffice, so that happily this impartial corps of Examiners may be fixed down to Meſs^{rs} Roſs & Johnson with any third actually holding or desiring to hold an office under Dr Franklin; & durante bene placito as the Commercial Agency is now actually held. M^{r} Roſs is to have his accounts settled, approved and paid by the Uncle, & M^{r} Roſs is to settle & approve those of the Nephew. Mr Johnson is concerned in trade with Mr Williams and the only American who is his avowed partizan. These are likely to be very impartial. —

Dr Franklin poſseſses, or at least actually exercises here, the Powers of Ambaſsador, Lord high Admiral, Lord high Treasurer, Chancellor of the Exchequer, & Lord of Trade. In such a Situation is it to be expected that his Nephews accounts will be impartially examined; especially as he has artfully introduced me, as the questioner of those accounts, & the Examiners know him to be my most inveterate Enemy.

What an example is here set, for unfair & collusive settlements; and by one whose conduct will have but too much influence! What justice is the public to expect under the influence of such an example either in accounting for past or managing future expenditures? —

Why these accounts can be better settled at Nantes than elsewhere; when the settlement of them, must depend on the receipts & bills of Loading taken at the time is not easily to be conceived. It is presumeable however that the object is to make the evidence of the tradesmen supply the place of such vouchers. French Tradesmen having actually the buſineſs of Mr Williams and his Friends at Nantes, & who know that future favours much depend on him and his Uncle, will give very honest & impartial evidence. —

Dr Franklin informs these impartial Examiners that I have declined making any farther objections, but he does not tell them he will furnish them with what I have made, nor is there any reason from his letter to judge that he

(No 284) Jno. J. Lloyd March 22d 79 (No 148

intends it. One cannot but think it a little unfortunate for the public, that my objections should have only prevented the formal part of settling the accounts, & not the material one of paying the demands of them and a great deal more? —

In short — the delays employed in furnishing these accounts — the pretending to have and yet refusing to give in the Vouchers required — the withdrawing the examination of them from one whose duty & inclination it was to examine them fully — the Nephew sollicting and the Uncle unkindly resisting an Examination while I was in Authority & there were able and impartial persons to examine them — the finding out when the power & influence were in him alone, & when most of the impartial gentlemen were embarked or embarking for America, that I had made objections, which rendered an immediate examination necessary — the pretending in his letter to me that he had not seen these objections before, and yet in his letter to the Examiners, that they had prevented the accounts from being settled — the making it an excuse for having delayed the settlement, that it was by accident he had just then seen my objections, tho' they had been under his eye and even in his possession for a long time, had been communicated to his Nephew, and so remarkable a letter written upon them to him by that Nephew some months before — And at length contriving to reduce the examiners to the most partial persons that exist — all these proceedings carry with them such violent marks of consciousness, & such a settled plan of obtaining a collusive settlement, that no doubt remains on my mind, nor can I think on that of any impartial person, what sort of accounts these are, which required so much art, management and influence to cover them. —

1779

No 148

(No 285)

[illegible]tract of a Letter from John Lloyd Esqr dated Paimbeuf [illegible]arch 22nd 1779 -

The day before yesterday a Letter was received here from Nantes addressed by Dr Franklin to Messrs W. Blake, D. Blake, J. Johnson, R. A. Fendall, J. Wharton, M. Ridley, J. Ross, J. Lloyd, G. Ogilvie & J. D. Schweighauser, requesting in a particular manner that we would examine the accounts of Mr Jn Williams and report our opinion thereupon - Mr Wharton, who was here, set off immediately for Nantes, from whence he is not returned, the Gentlemen wait to see him before they determine upon a reply. With respect to myself I cannot possibly defer my Embarkation, nor do I apprehend either of the Mr Blakes or Mr Ogilvie are the least disposed to it. -

The Gentlemen thus addressed (Mr Johnson and Mr Schweighauser excepted) were summoned by the Convoy to go down to Paimbeuf on the 6th of March. Mr Williams was at Nantes and knew this. It was notorious at Paris in a few days, they had repaired to Paimbeuf accordingly and expected hourly to sail. Could it then be seriously expected that they would give up their voyages and return to Nantes, to examine the accounts of Mr J. Williams? Do such manœuvres as these remove or confirm suspicions?

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To Messrs J. Wharton, M. Ridley, J. Johnson, M. Mease, J. Ross, J. Nesbitt
— Cummings, J. Gridley & J. D. Schweighauser Merchts at Nantes

Passy April 8th 1779

Gentlemen,

Great objections having been made by

Honourable Mr. Arthur Lee, to the accounts of Mr. Jn. [illegible] late Agent for the Commissioners at Nantes, which ar[illegible] the fore yet unsettled; and as not being conversant in me[illegible] tile business I cannot well judge of them; & therefore, as well as for other reasons, I did not and cannot undertake to examine them, myself & they may be better examined at Nantes where the business was transacted, than either here or in America; I beg the favour of you, Gentlemen, that you would, for the sake of justice and the public good, take that trouble upon you and make report to me thereupon. Which I do hereby agree shall be conclusive and final (subject only to the revision of Congreſs) in case Mr. Williams shall previously sign an engagement to abide thereby. If it should not suit you all to attend to this busineſs, I shall be content with the judgement of as many of you as can and will attend it, the number not being leſs than three. If an equal number should undertake it and be divided in their opinions, I request them to join in chusing an umpire that the matter may be concluded. I did desire Mr. Lee, if he had any further objections, to furnish you with them; but he has in a letter to me declined it

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Signed B. Franklin

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[illegible]rs Ross and Johnson, with any third actually holding
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bene placito as the Commercial Agency is now actually
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Extract 1779
of a Letter from John Lloyd
to — 22 March 1779.

ſur la Route de york a hampton

(No. 303)

1779

Monsieur et Cher Colonel

au moment de mon depart de willamsburg j'ay recu mon Expret de boston. le quel m'a appris que Mr. pierre avec les ſergent ayant Eté Rencontré dans ſa Route par les françois parti de york, avoit Eté détourné et Ramené a boston, où ayant trouvé une fregate pret a faire voile pour france ils ont fait embarquer les ſergents qui Etoit parti lorsque mon Expret est arrivé. Mr. pierre cependant Etoit encor a boston mais il avoit envoyé tous ſes papier d'instruction par la fregate ſes Equipage Etoit chargé ſur un autre batiment et pret a partir, ayant meme payé ſon paſſage. neamoin il vouloit venir me joindre, et il m'Ecrit une Lettre plaine de bonne volonté mais pbli. mazrec m'Ecrit que les trois Capitaine ſi courroussé contre cette nation, nont Rien negligé pour l'empecher de venir, ils ont pouſſé la mechanceté jusqu a ſupposer de fauſſe Lettre [illegible] qui prouvoit que mon affaire Etoit manqué jay ſur cela des detail que je vous ferai Lire la premiere fois que jaurai le plaiſir de vous voir, je vous previent que j'en envoy Copie

en france, avec les details de cet affaire qui ne
feront ſurement pas honneur au mechant —
caractere, D'autant plus qu'eux meme m'ont
ecrit des lettres pleine de civilité et qui prouve
leur double facon d'agir. je prendrai patience,
en attendant le retour de Mr la maire, je me
donnerai tous les mouvement poſſible pour —
Reuſſir a quelque choſe pour aſſiſtant.
mon laquet Mon Cher Colonel, n'a point
trouvé tous mes bagage car il me dit que il n'y
a qu une caiſſe arrivé de ſpringfield. il me
manque une malle dans la quelle j'ay tous
mon linge je vous demande la faveur d'ecrire
au quartier maitre ou commiſſaire a iston. et
a traiinton. ou j'avois d'abord laiſſé cette malle
d'ou elle a dû etre conduitte a iston, peut-
etre mon addreſſe est-elle déchirée, mais la
malle est aiſé a connoitre en la quelle est
platte, large et garnie de poil de ſanglier,
je vous prie d'emploier tous les moyens poſſible
pour me la faire retrouver, car tous mon
linges, mes papiers militaire, et 800 dollars
ſont dedans, ainſy vous voye que ce ſeroit
une perte eſſentiel pour moy, dautant plus
que j'ay deja eu une malle entierement

gaté, avec ces Effet pour au moins 80 Louis. mais vous devez ſentir Combien il est important pour moy d'avoir ſur le Champ tous mes papier militaire, ainsy je vous prie d'Ecrire ſans delais, a trainton et a iston pour que l'on ſ'informe où elle est Resté. je vous prie encor de demander a Mr de vilfranche mes Estampes que mon Exprès a oublié, ainsy que mas deux Grande Carte du paÿs que jay laiſsé dans le logement du Col. fran Lee.

a mon Retour de portsmouth jaurai le plaisir de vous Ecrire ſur une affaire très ſinguliere que jay découverte mais qui demande un long detail, et il faut que je parte et n'ai que le tems de vous aſsurer du ſincere attachement avec le quel jay l'honneur d'Etre

Monsieur et Cher Colonel

Votre affectionné

de Loyauté

je vous prie de faire paſser cette lettre a boston par la premiere occasion ſur ou par la poste;

deux vaiſseau françois et un Espagnol vienne d'être pris a hampton. il ſe sont batu plus de trois heur avec un vaiſseau de 64 cannon englois et deux fregate.

japprend que le colonel fran Lee doit être ſenateur a willamsburg dite luy qu'il trouvera un logement dans ma petite maiſon ſi cela luy fait plaisir

Layauhe letter

M. Layauhe

(No 207)

[illegible] Michaux [illegible]

Membre [illegible]

Philadelphia

Cerize

(No 305)

1779

Monſieur et Cher Colonel

L'aſsemblé est Rompü, et je ne luy ai pas fait l
Repreſentation ſur ſon injustice a mon Egard, je
avoüe que leur procédé m'a ſi fort dégouté que je
n'ai pas ~~eu~~ pü vaincre ma Repugnance a leur donne
la moindre preuve de mon mecontentement, d'ailleur
je vous dirai franchement que j'ay trouvé cette
aſsemblé ſi Ruſtre, et ſi peu ſpirituel que je n'ai
pas eü lespoir de leur ouvrir les yeux, même ſur
leur propres interest. je vais donc me tranquiliſer,
et attendre de vos nouvelles, aprés les quelles je me
deciderai au parti que j'aurai a prendre.
le ~~ca~~ Marchand du vaiſseau de 52 Cannon arrivé icy
a deja eü beaucoup de ſujet de mecontentement —
cet homme en a agit noblement avec votre —
gouvernement, et ~~loin~~ Loin que le Reciproque luy
ait eté Rendü, on a Cherché a le tromper ſ
l'Echange des monoys, de façon que cet hom
Rompü ~~[illegible]~~ avec le gouvernement et
très amérement de n'avoir pas tro
et de delicateſse ~~[illegible]~~ dans les R
Etat, il est obligé de vendre ſa
particulier et vous jugé Combien c
peine et de delagrement. mais il
votre Conſeil, je luy ai procé ſ
ſ'engager a vendre une trentain
ſon vaiſseaü, qui ſont tous très be
promis que ſ'il pouvoit ſ'en deſ
la préférance, ainſy j'ay penſé
je determine a avoir un fort icy les ca

(No 303) M. Loyauté

seroit d'une grande necessité, si vous le Congrès accepte mes service, et me charge de quelque chose a cet Egard, je tirerai tous les avantage possible pour ses interests.

il faut mon cher Colonel que je vous dise avec sincerité, que j'ay decouvert icy, que l'on n'avoit cherché a me nuire qu'a cause du grand interest que vous avez pris a ce qui me regarde. La vanité des Conseil, et particulierement de votre faux ami Mr Page, a été choqué que vous leur donnier si souvent des avis pour les engager a me fournir l'autorité necessaire, il pretende qu'ils ont assez d'esprit pour faire les affaire de l'Etat sans vos Conseil, j'en ai dit de pitié, en souhaitant pour ~~tous~~ le bonheur de votre païs qu'il soit gouverné par des hommes de votre Especes et non pas par d'ignorant pédant, ainsy par le monde

u mon cher Colonel malgrée mon envie
persion je ne le puis, mais rien ne pourra
ger du sincere attachement avec
mes l'honneur d'etre votre affectionné
ami)

Ale Loyauté

que Mr fournier a tous les
u'il desirait

No date (798)

To the free and Independent Whiggs of America.

Gentlemen. (No 323)

Soon after my arrival in France, I was convinced, from the extraordinary manner in which the business of the United States was conducted, that a public enquiry would, one day or other, be the consequence. My duty therefore as Secretary to one of the Commissioners, and as a Citizen of America, called upon me to observe ~~[illegible]~~ with Impartiality & attention such facts & Circumstances as came within my knowledge. * ~~That being thus~~ ~~perfectly~~ ~~thoroughly~~ ~~acquainted~~ ~~that should I ever be necessity ever require~~ a ~~with these proceedings~~ ~~I might, if ever required~~ ~~enter~~ ~~by the representatives of America~~, ~~enter~~ ~~into a detail of them~~, with that Accuracy and precision, which the delicacy of the Subject demanded. But since Mr. Silas Deane in his Address to "the free & Virtuous Citizens of America", published in the Pennsylvania packet of the 5th of Dec. 1778, has cruelly misrepresented these matters; necessity has compelled me to lay before you these few Strictures ~~a larger Investigation~~ for your better Information; and to guard you against ~~of them; that you may form a Judgement with~~ the Confidence of the Man who ~~believes~~ having engaged his ~~what propriety Mr Deane declares~~ ~~that~~ "it is Country, comes now to screen himself under the asylum of public "not his Intention to prejudice any Man but "to serve his Country."

* that being thus furnished with these pre-requisites (should ~~[illegible]~~ the good of my Country ever require it) I might enter into disquisitions of the political proceedings of their Comrs in Europe —

* ~~That should Necessity ever make a thing Investigation — ~~may~~ ~~find~~ necessary; I might do it~~

& dreading the ~~consequences~~ Consequences of an Enquiry into his Conduct. prejudice

Fragment of an Addreſs
to
The Free + Independant Whiggs
of
America

(No 323)

Dr Arthur Lee Esquire for Goods &c in a/c

1777	To Cash received for public Use	187500..0..0
1779	To ditto ditto	187500..0..0
	To Interest paid by Cotin the Banker on part of the last Sum	1500..0..0
	Livres	376500..0..0

with the United States — Cr.

By goods shipped by Gardoqui & Sons as p. 11 invoices amtg to reals vellon 673568.32		174005.41..3
By John Bondfield for goods shipped by him		
No. 1	48583.19.5	
2	7673.19.9	
	56257.19.2	
Deduct for discount	2079 — —	54178.19.2
By goods shipped on acct. of the State of Virginia		54351.10 —
By 800 fusils shipped ⅌ [illegible]		21.453.10..
By cash paid for Intelligence		
By Commissions paid the Banker		
By postage & News papers		
	306	
By balance carried to my Expence acct.	68..	
Livres	371,5	

To paid them for freight —— 12000

56,102,5,5

General Account

No. 1

1777-79

Expended on public Account

Paid Gardoqui & Sons	174,805, 1, 3
Do. J. Bondfield	66,178, 19, 2
Advanced for the State of Virginia	66,853, , 10
for 800 Fusils & Charges	21,453, 19, 9
for Intelligence	2,384, 18,
English News-papers	299, 1,
Mr. Stevenson for Dispatches	528,
Do. Lieutenant Jones	452, 17,
Capt. Hynson	960
Bankers Commission	1,724, 5,
Extraordinary Expences	19,867, 13, 11
Ordinary Expences	141,274, 6,
	495,982, 1, 11

Receiv'd on public account

1777	187.500
1779	187.500
Interest from the Banker Colin	1.500
Do. . the Banker Solier	12.234
From the Banker Grand	102.000
Paid for a Watch for me	919
Of J. Bradford C. A. at Boston 64910 Dollars, at 75 for 5^{lt}	4. 328
Total received	495981

List of Bills recived from John the Banker the Caisse D'Escomptes 7th April 1779 for 42925.lt

No.	Date	Sum	How paid
224	26 Aout 1778	1000	State of Virginia June 16. 1779
188	— —	1000	Do Do
377	— —	1000	Do Do
397	— —	1000	Do Do
277	— —	1000	Do Do
37	25 feb —	1000	Do Do
405	16 Apl —	2000	Do Do
80	31 Aout —	2000	Do Do
558	26 — —	2000	Do Do
181	31 — —	2000	Do Do
185	— — —	2000	Do Do
651	11 May —	2000	Do Do
500	3 June —	600	Do Do
11	26 Oct —	300	Do Do
618	26 Aout —	3000	Do Do
692	— — —	3000	Expences May 11th 1779
752	— —	3000	Expences June 21st
222	— —	3000	Expences Augt [illegible]
636	— — —	3000	[illegible]
8	— — —	3000	
248	— —	3000	
655	— — —	3000	

ce vendredi matin

je vous ai cherché en vain mon ami, hier a la Comedie Italienne! pourquoi n'y etiez vous pas? aviez vous oublié que je vous avois donné parolle? que les acteurs m'ont parus mauvais! que je m'y Suis ennuyée! je n'ai rien vu, je n'ai rien entendu que quatre vers qui ont raport a mon coeur: Les voici.

et Si l'on dit que je t'adore,
l'on a bien raison
l'on a bien raison
dut on m'en blamer encore,
je ne dirai jamais non
je ne dirai jamais non.

Mais voici du monde, mon coeffeur Se charge de porter mon billet. je Serai Seule ce Soir a dix heures et demain Samedi à la meme heure. j'ai mille choses a vous dire, ne manquez pas de venir ce Soir. ou demain Sans faute je Suis tremblante.

adieu. un mot de reponse.

Friday morning

I looked for you again in vain last night at the Italian Comedy, you were not there. Had you forgot that I had made the appointment. How wretched the hours appeard to me — I was chagrined — I saw nothing — I heard nothing but four verses which sympathised with my heart. They were these —

And if they say I adore you

They are [illegible]
The [illegible]
Let them blame me as they please
I shall never say no
I shall never say no

But there is company coming. My hair-dresser promises to deliver this. I shall be alone this evening at ten & to morrow, Saturday, at the same hour — I have a thousand things to say to you — Do not fail to night or to morrow — I tremble — Adieu

To Mr Lee [illegible]

Chalut

il me Seroit de toute impossibilité de voir mon aimable ami avant dix heures et demie si cela est possible, il me combleroit de joye sinon je l'attendrai demain a 9 heures et demie avec la plus vive impatience. je l'embrasse comme je l'aime c'est a dire plus que moi meme./.

— Translation —

It will be impoſsible for me to see my Love 'till 10 & an half — If that is convenient it will overwhelm me with joy. If not, I shall expect you tomorrow at 9 & an half with the utmost impatience — I embrace you, as I love you, that is, more than myself.

we were entertained the design of withdrawing
from their connection with him and his Ma-
jesty. According to you, the inflammatory [illegible]
of the Lees in Europe, and the intrigues of
[illegible] have produced this Alliance [illegible]
[illegible] With him the Alliance is our Palladium, therefore
the Lees are Enemies to it; with you it is our ruin and
reproach, and therefore the Lee's were the Authors of it. -

It is happy for the Public, when accident
discovers men's real principles. Your invectives a-
gainst men who have exerted their utmost to avert
from their Country the worst of all public calamities,
British tyranny may be very grateful to your friend
[illegible] hope; but I trust our Countrymen will
view them and their Authors with the contempt they
merit.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedt. Humble Servt.

A. Lee.

disadvising strongly the measure of going to Holland &c. so that matter he said was over. Mr Lee answered that answers were generally conformable to the questions & having seen neither one nor tother he could form no judgment about it. If the question was whether it was proper to go there publickly he could not wonder at the answer. But he asked Mr. Adams whether he thought that a proper way of doing the publick business, that Dr. Franklin should receive answers without their knowledge & upon them unseen they were to form their measures. He said he thought it wrong.

Next day 27th. Mr Lee wrote down his propositions in the following words.

Two propositions to be made to the Bourgomastre of Amsterdam & negociated at an Interview as secretly as possible.

1st That the City of Amsterdam shall undertake to use their utmost influence with the States gen.l to obtain an immediate conclusion of a treaty with the United States

or 2d That the City shall advance to the United States two Millions ster.g at 5 p. C.t on condition that the United States shall enter into such a treaty on the acknowledg.t of their independency by G. B.

Oct.r 27. 1778.

Mr. Adams said it would be necessary to write to the Bourgomastre for this purpose & that he was ready to concur in such a Letter which they ought not to pay. The objection was adopted by Mr. Adams, & Mr. Montheu agreed it was just, but he urged the payment of his demand & promised that he would procure the accounts & even offered to give security for it. Mr. Adams took up this with much warmth & said that if an Englishman or American had made such a demand without producing the Vouchers, which everyone knew were absolutely necessary, he should take it for granted there was an intention to impose upon them. That perhaps the french manner was different; but that he did not think we could be justified in paying the accounts without the Vouchers whatever might be our opinion of their fairness. — Dr. Franklin who had argued very much for paying them, was obliged to give it up, & it was agreed to advance him 150,000 lt. on account. — Mr. Lee proposed they shd go next day to the minister to consult him upon one of us going to Holland, & exchange the unanim communications of the 11th & 12 Articles, as was determined upon & intended on Sunday, but Dr. Franklin was indisposed. To this proposition Dr. F. objected because he was engaged on a party into the country next day. but he said Mr. L. might go; to which Mr. L. answered that the Minister did not like to see them separately & it looked like disagreement, therefore he wd. go no more. [illegible]

Octr. 20. M. Grand called on Mr. Lee & informed him that another 700 thousd. Livres had been paid him for the Commissioners by the Court, but nothing said. Neither did the Minister give any answer to their Letter on that subject.

23. Mr. Adams mentioned to Mr. Lee upon his asking of the Commissioners were never to go to the Minister upon the Holland treaty & giving up the 11th & 12th Articles, that he thought they ought to propose to the Minister a plan

for intercepting the provision ships from Corke, to America. Mr Izard said he approved of it much. Next day Mr Lee went on purpose to renew the conversation & promote the going & upon mentioning it, Mr Adams seemed to have forgot it, for wch he apologized by saying it was his way to shoot his bolt & forget it. Mr L. ask'd him if he had ever spoke of it to Dr Franklin- he said yes- what did he say to it? not a word- Mr Adams then went on to tell him that he had also spoke of it to Mr Chaumont, who came to him some time after & said he had mentioned it to M. de Sartine, who made no answer: Such was the manner in wch public business was done.— 2 Mr Adams had frequently insinuated that Dr Smith who had wrote ~~an~~ abusive Letters to the Commissioners, was encouraged by some high in office, & that we must not give countenance to the abusing one another, & such expressions wch made Mr Lee believe he suspected Mr Izard,

Mr Lee took an opportunity of men-
tion'g it to Mr Izard this Evening
who assured him, that he was so far
from promoting it, that he never
heard of the ~~lett.~~ letter before Mr Izard shew'd
it to him, & that upon hearing
of the first, he had spoke to Dr
Smith in condemnation of such
conduct with great warmth.

26th Decr Mr Lee had ~~proposed~~ mentioned
a private meeting with the Pen-
sioner of Amsterdam, to endea-
vor to procure the concurrence
of that City in conclud.g a
treaty immediately, or get
a Loan from them to carry
on the war. No decision was
made, but Mr Adams signified
his approbation of it in general.
This day Mr A. ~~told~~ Mr Lee, that
Dr Franklin had written to Hol-
land & to Count Vergennes, to
which he had received answers

upon our powers who were alone authorized. That he himself had ever made it a rule to consult with his Colleagues in every thing that concerned the public & that to take measures without such communication must be attended with bad consequences & ought not to have been done. Mr. Lee answered that the contrary had been done with regard to him a thousand times by Dr. F. himself — that his Pr. had settled nothing but only what he might

report to the Commrs.
here ~~[illegible]~~ or the in
London on the other
side for their consi-
deration - that it never
was his intention to
take upon himself
anything that belonged
to Others, but being
applied to, he had en-
deavord to obtain with
precision what might
be referred to the Com-
missioners who had
authority to approve
or reject it.

13th Mr. Monthieu demand'd
payment of his Acct. Mr. Lee
objected that there were no re-
ceipts produc'd of the delivery
of the goods he charg'd; without

might have had at once the Notatations

Arthur Lee to the President of Congreſs
No. 1 Vindication of his Conduct while abroad as Comm^r to France

Sir)

I have the honor of depositing with Congreſ
a Gold enamelled Snuff Box containing the Picture
the King of France set with Diamonds; which wa
presented to me on my taking leave of the Court of
Versailles, by his Excellency the Count de Vergennes
Majesty's Minister for foreign affairs, as a ma
the esteem of that Monarch. In my judgement
period ever produced a Monarch whose esteem
more valuable. His portrait is engraved on
mind by the justice & virtue which form
character [illegible] deserve
justice.

I received this present with a resolution of
holding it only at your disposal. For I esteem it
dangerous consequence that a Republican should
obtain presents from any foreign Prince or Power
while a Servant of the Republic without the expreſs
approbation of his Constituents. Still more dange-
rous & unbecoming is it to measure the merits of
those employed in the public service & make their
characters depend upon complimentary Letters from
the Ministers of the Court where they have resided,

It is the [illegible] use of all possible methods to make them
subservient where they should be entirely Independent
& lead them to substitute intrigue in the place of a
due discharge of their duty, & sacrifice the interests
of their Country to the inclinations of a foreign
Minister.

If they do their duty to their Country their Con-
stituents ought best to know it; & the reward they
pleased to bestow upon them is the sole & suf-
ient recompense becoming the dignity of a
ree citizen to receive.

emoved & dishonored as I have been it may be
ed that I should enter largely into a detail of
my transactions while in the public service by
which it would appear how I have d[illegible]harged my
duty in the great lines of a public Minister abroad,
that is in a constant attention to the honor & inte-
rests of his Country at large & of his Countrymen;
informing his Constituents of the State of the diff-
erent powers of Europe, & obtaining & communicat-
ing frequent intelligence of the Disposition & de-
signs of the Enemy. To my Country at large this
may be necessary but surely it would be superflu-
ous to you when the records of Congress from the
first times bear witness a thousand & a thou-
: sand

might have tried at once the Negotiations

:sand times of what I have done from the [illegible]
for the public service. From the first dawn of this
contest to the 24th of Sepr 1779 when you were pleased
to displace me the records of Congress will prove
that in every high & dangerous service abroad I
always named & relied upon for its execution. W
it not known to you all, that even before that pe
the illustrious band of Patriots, to whose wis
& firmness we owe the foundations of this glo
our Revolution, the Representatives of the Mass
:chusetts Bay in 1768 gave me unsought the high-
:est mark of their confidence merely from the
lation of my zeal & activity for this Country & for
this cause? Was it not equally known to you, being
upon your records, that I was named to the Com-
:mission which has been the cause of so much
indecent contest, in consequence of past services?
That the then Committee of Congress, among whom
was the most subtle of all my Enemies Dr Frank-
:lin, wrote me when the Commission was sent—
"We flatter ourselves that our Country will greatly
"benefit of those abilities & that attachment you have
"already manifested in sundry important services".

For these services & this attachment what
has

have been my reward? I have been calumniated by my
Colleagues & dishonord by you. Examining the volumes
of vanity & Egotism in the shape of Narratives, the
scraps of abuse, the innuendoes & anecdotes which
twelvemonths intrigue under the eye of Congreſs
gendered against me I do not find one line which
d for the countenance given to these productions
& proceedings of Congreſs
ud have deserved the notice of a Gentleman X The
avourer in Congreſs kept pace with & gave credit
the plots of my Accusers; X with a proof of the
alsehood of their accusations upon their own
rds, as far as they were of any public import,
appointed to my avowed Enemy & an Agitator
for my place as a witneſs against me; & relied
upon his honor who stood convicted before them
by his own confeſsion of a most dishonorable
breach of confidence to me in delivering my Dis:
:patches for the secret Committee to Mr. Deane
knowing he intended to violate every principle
of honor & honesty in opening them. Instead of re:
:lieving the anxiety of the public by apprizing them
of the untruth of Mr. Deanes representations
Congreſs at the instigation of Monsieur Gerard
endeavord to silence & discredit the man who was
detecting Mr. Deane's impositions & undoing the
mischief

mischief those impositions had done to the honor of Congreſs & the interest of the public. And the then President Mr. Jay represented this Gentleman so employed, & who had rendered the most eſsential services to our Country, as a public Enemy in the acrimonious Letter which accompanied that Resolve of Congreſs. The ostensible foundation of all this manoeuvre being nothing more than that Mr. Paine had aſserted what the Commiſsioners had repeatedly written & what all the then Commiſsioners at Paris had some little time before informed Count Vergennes was believed by the whole people of the United States.

In the same spirit Monsieur Gerard complained & Congreſs made a serious answer to the representation that some people held the States of America to be at Liberty to conclude a separate Peace with Great Britain. Thus countenance was given to Mr. Deane's accusations of my Brother R. H. Lee a man whom you had seen devote almost every hour of his life to the public service from the first foundation of Congreſs, & of whose Services the House of Aſsembly of Virginia had given so full & honorable a testimony.

testimony. That no other object could have prompted this measure is manifest from the time of its transaction, & the faith of Congreſs having, in this point, three times before been pledged in the most solemn & satisfactory manner.

When the intelligence of these transactions reached me in Paris & I perceived that the proceedings in Congreſs instead of arresting the progreſs of this pernicious ~~part~~ business, were ministering fuel & support to it; I thought it my duty to the public to deavor to shield my Country from the danger th growing factions & diſsentions by requesting leave to resign. This I did in the following Letter

"To his Excellency the President of Congreſs"

"Paris March 1st 1779

"I beg the favor of you, Sir, to present my duty
"to Congreſs, with my most earnest prayer that
"I may have leave to resign the Commiſsion
"which I hold under them in the service of the
"United States. It is my duty to the public to in-
"form Congreſs that their not having censured the
"conduct of Mr Silas Deane with regard to me
"has operated in the opinion of Europe in general

as

might have had at once the Negotiations to m

"as an approbation of it & they may easily judge
"of what little utility I am likely to be when appa:
":rently dishonored by those whose Commission I
"bear- I have the honor to be, with the greatest
"respect your Excellency's &c^a"

All the advices from America convinced
me that the evil I had apprehended was augment-
ing so as to threaten the distruction of the public,
& that every step taken ~~by~~ in that Congress, was part
of a formed plan to augment the credit of my ac-
:cusers & effect my distruction tho at the hazard
of the State in the execution; I again endeavour
to stop the public mischief by re-urging my
request in the following Letter.

"To his Excellency the President of Congress"
"Paris May 31st 1779

"I beg the favor of your Excellency to lay my
"respects before Congress with a repetition of my
"most earnest request to be recalled. I should
"most willingly continue to sacrifice, as I have
"hitherto done, my private interests to the public
"good. But I am satisfied that the dissentions
"raised concerning me will be continued with
"a continuance of my Commission & will be of

more

" of Versailles & sole Commissioner at the Court of &

"more injury to the public than I can be of service.
"As the public good was the sole motive of my accept-
"ing the Commiſsion the same reason now induces
"me to desire most earnestly to resign it — I have
the honor to be &c.ª"

But before the receipt of this Letter, that Con-
greſs had, without waiting for the report upon
my answer to Mr Deane's accusations, condemn-
ed me in the opinion of mankind by naming one
of the Leaders of the plot against me to take my
place in the Negociation with Spain & one
of my accusers Secretary. As if public confi-
dence was to be held out as the reward of plots &
intrigue & the public secrets & honor were
safest with him who had already betrayd them
both.

For sixteen months before my diſmiſsion, instructions of the
utmost importance in this Negociation were
withheld from me, so that whatever favorable
opportunity might have offerd, the public ser-
vice must have suffered in order to save this ob-
ject for the ripening of the plot that was indus-
triously executing. Such have been the steps,
truly but tenderly traced, which lead to the com-
pletion of this buſineſs.) A Note Buſineſs which

has

has astonished all good men, disgusted Europe, dishonord America & delighted our Enemies. × Such was my conduct in it; & such the conduct of Congreſs & of my Enemies. ×

× I do not condemn my diſmiſsion from employment; but the manner in which it was done, destructive as much of public honor as of private safety. It is not in nature that ~~any~~ a single man in Congreſs could have believed any one of the accusations against me of public concern. For what did it import the public whether I was a well or ill temperd man; whether I was pleasing or ungracious to Meſsrs. Chaumont, Beaumarchais, Grand, Holker & other Contractors & partners with Mr. Deane. Their names need only be mentiond where they are known to shew the ridicule of stating them confidents of the Court of Versailles, or in the smallest degree ~~consequential~~ of consequence in the great affairs of State. Not that I ever behaved to them but with the civility which is due to all mankind. It was indeed with inexpreſsible shame & regret that I saw a constant endeavor in my Colleagues to render the Sovereign cause of America, to which the

the first ~~Grandees in E~~ Men in Europa look'd up with ve:neration, subservient to the sordid views of such People, & at length dependent upon them. Never was a purer fire lighted upon any Altar, & never was any Altar approached by such impure hands. Fit Priests for Belial & for Mammon but not for the hallowed Temple of ~~Freedom~~ American Liberty. X

I expect that not one Gentleman in Congress could have believed the accusations made against me. Common sense could not so err, nor sober judgement be so perverted. They did not come in a credible Shape. The time, the manner in which they were made, the intrigues, the corruption, the inconsistencies, the absur:dities, the Hearsays, the innuendoes, the con:temptible Anecdotes which preceded, accompa:nied & followed them were proofs as gross as Mountains of the factious views with which they were brought & of a consciousness in those who made them that they could not be supported by any colorable evidence, nor by more reputable means than those they employd. I trust that these means will dishonor them in spight of momentary success. I speak to you Sir, with the boldness of an injured & upright man. You may imagine Sir that might have had at once the Negotiations

I feel myself well fortified in conscious innocence & honor. I hope to give a lesson to Mankind to shew how difficult it is in a free Country to fix permanent dishonor upon a faithful Servant of the public & that truth & rectitude are superior to abused prerogative & power. ✗

When every indirect and artful intrigue had fail'd, the Minister Mr Gerard came forward & openly accused me or authorised the accusation in his name, of being odious & suspected by his Court & by that of Madrid, & therefore, *in his opinion* unfit to represent the United States in either place.

This accusation Mr Gerard founds upon an Extract of a Letter which, *he says*, was written by Count de Vergennes, his M. Christian Majesty's Minister for foreign affairs, in these words – "Je crains Monsieur Lee, et ses entours" – I fear Mr Lee & those about him. This Letter is said to be dated at Versailles the 29th of Octr 1778 – As a full & direct contradiction of this, I lay before you Sir, an authenticated copy of a Letter from the Count de Vergennes dated at Versailles the 13th of Feby 1779 in which that Minister says – "Si nous avons pu "être instruits de vos contestations, nous n'y sommes

entrés

"entiér pour rien, et l'estime personelle que nous
"avons cherchér a faire remarquer a chacun de
"Meſsieurs les Commiſsairs fait preuve que nous
"n'avons point adoptér les preventions qu'on sem
"ble vouloir inspirer a l'Amerique et dont le fonde-
"ment nous est inconnu ici."

"If we were informed of your disputes we
"took no concern in them & the personal esteem
"which we endeavord to shew each of the Commiſsi:
"oners is a proof that we have not adopted the pre:
"judices that are sought to be inspired into the
"People of America, & for which we know of no
"foundation here."

Is it poſsible to frame a more full & compleat refutation of what Mr Gerard, Mr Deane & Mr Carmichael have labourd to inspire into Congreſs & my Countrymen after they had faild of it at Versailles? By this expreſs declaration of the Count, his Court had not only resisted the adoption of these Calumnies, but they knew no foundation for them & I was so far from being odious, so far from being suspected that they endeavord to shew me the same personal esteem that they did the other Commiſsioners? Can any one for a moment believe that so respectable a Minister as

Count

Count Vergennes coud ever have so contradicted so disgraced himself as to write or even think injuriously of one to whom he was shewing every mark of personal esteem & against whom he woud not believe the insinuations that were artfully urged because he knew of no foundation for them. It is for his honor as well as for my own that I am contending. It is proper to observe that this was a Letter written by his Excellency Count Vergennes unsollicited & unknown to me, with Mr Deane's accusations before him, & near four months after the date of the ~~pretended~~ Letter ~~improved upon~~ so strangely ushered into Congress ~~by the [illegible]~~. A Letter industriously circulated in the News papers by the Cabal that was perpetually planning such measures in Congress & then making them public in order to give credit to Mr Deane's accusations which they knew to be false, to deceive the People, ruin me & promote themselves. To compass these ~~[illegible]~~ ends, they did not hesitate at every violation of truth & honor, nor at kindling the most pernicious animosities, arresting the public business & planting dissentions which the Child unborn will see & which had my friends been

been as intemperate & as careleſs as they of the pub:lic ~~as they~~ weal, woud have torn asunder these United States.

But what will this Country, what will the world think of M. Gerard as a Man or as a Minister, who when he was sent hither by his Court to strengthen our Union & cement the new Alliance shoud give any aid to intrigues tending to disunite & weaken us, & concur in imposing upon Congreſs a belief that his Court entertaind suspicions which he knew they did not entertain & which he declared under his hand & Seal his Christian Majesty's Ministers had rejected from their own observation that such suspicions were without foundation. In this his declaration concurs with Count Vergennes's Letter & demonstrates how shamefully he sinned against his own conviction when he endeavord to make this Minister the instrument & author of such a charge against me.

To prove still more how utterly groundleſs this imputation is, I lay before you, Sir, authenticated copies of a multitude of Letters from Count de Vergennes to me in the same month & almost the same day with that adduced to support his accusation, for months before & months after. You

see

might have had at once the Negotiations to

see from them the particular correspondence constantly maintained by that Minister with me, the mutual confidence & communications that subsisted & the consideration with which he ~~h~~ regarded ~~[illegible]~~ me.

In these Letters you will also see Sir, that when I sollicited for the State of Virginia a very considerable supply of Brass Artillery & other Munitions of War his Majesty's Ministers not only granted them immediately upon my single request ~~word~~; but accompanied that mark of their esteem & confidence with declarations the most honorable & flattering to me & certainly far beyond what any thing but the goodness of my intentions merited. Count Vergennes writes me thus—

"Versailles le 5 Juin 1778"

"Vous verrez, Monsieur, par la lettre ci-jointe
"de M. le P.ce de Montbarey, et par l'Etat qui y est
"arrêté que j'ai mis la plus grande activité dans
"l'execution de la commission que vous m'avez re:
":commandée — Je serai toujours très flatté lorsque
"vous me procurerez, à moi-même les occasions de
"vous marquer mon empressement pour les Etats

Unis

" of Versailles the sole Commissioner at the Court of

"Unie de l'Amerique, et a vous Monsieur la par-
"faite consideration avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur
"d'être, Monsieur, votre très Humble et très obeis-
"sant Serviteur"

"Versailles June the 5th 1778.

"You will see Sir by the Letter I enclose from
"the Prince Montbarey & by the list annexed, that I
"have executed the Commission you recommended
"to me, with the utmost readiness. I shall always
"be very much flattered when you furnish me
"in particular with opportunities of proving to you
"my Zeal for the United States, & the high considera-
"tion for you with which I have the honor to be, Sir, Your
"most Obedient, Humble Servant."

Upon the same subject the ~~Minister~~ Prince
de Montbarey another of his Majesty's principal
Ministers addressed me thus —

"Versailles 13 June 1778

"In consequence, Sir, of what you ask'd of
"Count Vergennes & myself I give orders for collect-
"ing at Nantes as you desire the Artillery you have
"requested, conformable to the list annexed which
"I have the honor of sending you. I am delighted
"Sir, that this transaction furnishes me with an
"opportunity of assuring you of the pleasure I have
in

"in treating with you, & of giving you proof of the "regard & high consideration with which I have the "honor to be, Sir, your most humble & most obedt. Servant."

Are these the terms in which they would have addressed an odious & suspected foreign Minister? Is earnestness to oblige a mark of hatred, warmth of civility a proof of disgust, & conferring obligations evidence of suspicion? Are these the proofs of my unfitness to represent the United States & transact the confidential business of the public? If they are, then M. Gerard, Mr. Deane & Mr. Carmichael have not deceived you & traduced me. ~~If they are then was the anxiety of Mr. Paca least the public should be injured by my continuance in its service honorably urged & well founded.~~

My Correspondence with another of his Majesty's Servants will shew both how I exerted myself to prevent the public supplies from being burthend with extraordinary expence, & how ready they were to oblige me even in matters of singular delicacy & difficulty. Mr. Necker the Comptroller General on my request & representation suspended the heavy duties payable on the

export-

export of warlike Stores even by the King himself, & which that illustrious Financier states as so singular a favor, that it coud not be granted again to any person whatsoever.

Permit me Sir to observe that all this Evidence which operates at once & in the fullest manner my justification ~~[illegible]~~ does not consist of Hearsays, Innuendoes, Anecdotes & forgeries; but of official & recorded facts, of the highest respectability & the most unquestionable authenticity. It does not come from Contractors, Jobbers, Partners, Partizans, relations & subordinate Agents; but from the highest & most respected Ministers & Servants of the crown. It is such evidence only that becomes a Commissioner of the United States of America to give; & suffer me to say it was such Evidence only that it was compatible with the dignity of the Congress of this rising Empire to receive.

But suppose these words "je crains M. Lee" had been in the Minister's Letter, who knows what the Minister meant by these words? Why was not the part which explaind their meaning quoted; & if it woud have supported the conclusion they induced you to draw from it? Is it thus that justice

might have had at once the Negotiations to

justice is administerd to your absent Servants? Are copies of obscure scraps of ~~papers~~ of a Letter to decide upon their merits, affect their zeal, & consign them to disgrace? Is it impoſsible, or even improbable, that a Minister of State might fear the firmneſs, the zeal, the activity, the vigilance of a Commiſsioner in particular cases when the interests of one Country might not be entirely compatible with the convenience of the other? Why was the worst construction to be adopted; & a conclusion admitted gratis from an obscure paſsage of a garbled, unproduced Letter to wound an established character & cancel the services of years. If the word only of M. Gerard was to establish the conclusion, then, the honor & existence of your Ministers was in the breath of Mr. Gerard. He had struck the Sceptre from your hands which the Victory of Saratoga & the Treaty of Paris placed there; & was the absolute Dictator of America. He put down & raised up at his pleasure. His absolute will displaced me, & made Mr. Jay Minister to Spain. I do not ask where was the dignity of

Congreſs

Congreſs, the honor, the justice of America when these things were permitted, I ask only why a foreign Minister who presumed to give such an opinion unasked & dictate your conduct was not instantly silenced. Is there in the whole transactions of the Corps Diplomatique, a single instance of similar presumption.

I hope the imputation upon my character by M. Gerard is now fully refuted. Those of Mr. Deane & Mr. Carmichael as far as they deserve attention, have been already answerd.

The plot has closed with the promotion of all the actores fabulæ. Dr. Franklin is sole Minister in France, apparently with absolute power to dispose of the public Money, plunge these States in debt & ~~[illegible]~~ employ their Ships of war ~~[illegible]~~ for the benefit of ~~[illegible]~~ & others at his pleasure. Mr. Chaumont is contractor General under him & the Nephew Mr. Williams his Deputy. M. Gerard has returned to Europe with a Minister & Secretary to his mind, the creatures of his hand & fashiond after his own image. Mr. Deane alone seems content with the honor only of

having

having been employd in so reputable a work. I shoud beg Mr Beaumarchais pardon. He has not got the Statue erected to him which Mr Carmichael proposed, but he has got what is of infinitely more importance the public money in spight of all my endeavors to save it from his demands.

I have but one word to say ~~[illegible]~~ touching my own situation & conduct from the moment I was appointed a Commissioner. I had already experienced the jealous, the base & unfriendly disposition of Mr Deane. Dr Franklin on my arrival at Paris gave me proof how little he wishd me to act by endeavoring, *in the most friendly manner* to dissuade me from accepting the Commission. I knew that those who were about us were my secret Enemies intriguing, vain, ambitious & unprincipled. So situated nothing but a strong expectation of serving the public coud have tempted me to act. The probable consequences to myself I foresaw & they were at best not inviting. But as I knew I shoud concern myself only with the public & have no private affairs to occasion disputes I trusted that I coud avoid them. I saw neither honor nor advantage in them, what then shoud induce me to enter into them? My Enemies represent me as of a nature jealous, sus-

picious

:picious & dissatisfied. But they state facts ~~that~~ which shew that the suspicions & dissatisfaction was on their side. Mr. Deane considerd himself as saddled with ~~me~~ because I had been acquainted with Lord Shelburne, because I knew Count Lauragais I was to be suspected; & according to Mr. Deane's acknowledgement, my worthy Colleagues were so jealous of me from the beginning that they immediately planned to send me away from Paris.

They found the utmost willingness in me to go, because there was a prospect of doing some good in Spain, & all that was likely to be done for some time at Paris was already executed. Money was obtained. It remaind only to vest it in supplies, the grace & emolument of which I most willingly left to them. With the same readiness & from the same motives I went to Germany. How they were in the mean time employd against me would be a detail most disgusting & disgraceful to human nature. They themselves have discoverd enough. Did ever the subtle treachery of an Indian prepare a poisond arrow with more dexterity than Dr. Franklin, when with all the gravity & imposition of his character, he insinuated to the Americans in private that I was deprived of my reason.

These were the acts, these the poisond insinuations

which

might have had at once the Negotiations to

which my Colleagues & a number of their instruments were hourly employing against me both in Paris & London, to whom a host of French Contractors was soon joind; all from one motive, that I was considerd as a determind opposer of the impositions upon & plunder of the public. For least it should be imagind that I had private transactions & differences with these people; it is proper to mention that before the commencement of these disputes there never passed a word of altercation between me & any one of them, never a private transaction or personal difference.

At length my not consenting to let the Nephew Mr. Williams have the public money at will & without account, My refusing to concur in their proposition of appointing M. de Chaumont Contractor General, & my disappointing them, without knowing it, of ~~a [illegible]~~ a favorite object, in opposing the 12th Article as it was proposed, in the Commercial treaty, so ~~[illegible]~~ quickend their animosity & vengeance, that a plan was formed of a general union of all their efforts. Dr. Franklin wrote the strongest letters of recommendation to Congress & his friends in favor of my accusers, M. de Beaumarchais set his instruments at work, & an accident added M. Gerard to their number. The public has felt, & every good man

I am sure, has seen with shame the manner in which they conducted their plot.

When Dr. Franklin thought he had thus effectually encompaſsed me round with the snares of death, to lull me to sleep he wrote me the Kindest Letter imaginable stating that he wanted very much the aſsistance of my advice. He was either very sincere in his desire or very honest in his insinuations that I was crazy. Congreſs has seen the honorable manner in which I mentiond him in my Letter to Lord Shelburne. Were I to expose what I have in my poſseſsion under Dr. Franklin's hand the public would judge that he owed the high character of patriotism I gave him to my bounty & even to my charity.

When Congreſs resolved that jealousies & disputes had taken place among the Commiſsioners injurious to the honor & interests of America; it seemd a neceſsary consequence that fair & full enquiry should be made from whom those jealousies & disputes moved. The diſmiſsing ~~Mr. Izard~~ my Brother & myself from the public service implied that we were the authors of that mischief. But I am bold to affirm & I do it at every hazard that there was not a colorable pretence

for

for that imputation.

When I was in Germany I wrote constantly to my Colleagues in the most confidential manner not only on the public affairs but even on what interested me personally. They never wrote a single word in answer. I have retrieved my original Letters endorsed by themselves as received. My Brother while at Nantes acting as Commercial Agent wrote them frequent Letters of intelligence & business. They never condescended either to answer him. They constantly refused to communicate the Treaties to Mr. Izard tho directed to do so by Congress; & accompanied the refusal with a private insinuation against him to me of the basest nature. And at that very time they were confiding them to Dr. Bancroft who was under no authority, in no trust, from Congress; & who they knew was actually concerned in Stock jobbing upon the Treaties.

With whom then did the jealousies & enmity reside & who gave cause for the disputes which wounded the honor & interest of the public? The evidence I appeal to is written & cannot be disputed. The conclusion is inevitable.

It

It was not only my constant wish & endeavor to avoid disputes with them myself; but I made it an object also to guard my Brother against them. When I left Paris for Germany & expected him every day in France to act as Commercial Agent; I wrote him a Letter of advice, in which I recommended to him to consult with Dr. Franklin, to employ his Nephew, to treat Mr. Deane with the respect due to his ~~character~~ Commission & avoid giving him any cause of enmity. This Letter I left with Dr. Franklin who deliverd it to my Brother in whose possession it now is. It was a subject of complaint from me to my most intimate friends that Mr. Carmichael & other confidential friends of my Colleagues both in Paris & London were industriously propagating reports of such disputes before they really existed. I saw the public mischief such reports would produce & the use they intended to make of them. I may appeal to the recollection of every American that was in Paris & London that such reports were propagated very early & by these persons. What M. de Beaumarchais discoverd to Mr. Izard & myself relative to Mr. Deane & Mr. Car-

:michael

michael shews that their system was formed by them at an early period & we have all seen that they pursued it not only with perseverance but succeſs.

Sensible of my situation & knowing the intentions of Mr. Deane & Carmichael when they went over I relied upon the justice of Congreſs, on the virtue & good sense of my Country. Perfectly satisfied that they had not the least just ground for impeaching my conduct, I trusted that my character was sufficiently established to bid defiance to the calumnies of men whom the tempest of the times had lifted from obscurity; & whose principal talents & merit consisted in writing & speaking highly of themselves. Congreſs knew how I had been employd & what I had done. They had been inform'd minutely of it with copies of official Letters & accounts to explain & support it. The disposition of the principal Powers in Europe, the designs of the Enemy, their plans; their force & the various disposition of it, were the subjects of constant Letters. It was in obtaining this knowledge & intelligence that I was occupied, while my Colleagues & their friends were employd much more to their own emolument & in weaving the plot which they have since produced to the public. My Letters which shall in due time be published will enable my Country & the world to judge what reason I had to confide in the protection of Congreſs & how little to apprehend any injury or dishonor from naked accusations & malicious tales.

+ I can call God to witneſs that I have never laid my head upon my pillow for ten years past, without meditating what I might next day do for the service of my Country & its cause. This is not mentiond as a merit; ~~but it~~ it was my duty. Since the first moment that I was satisfyd that the settled system of the King of G. Britain & his Ministers was to trample upon our Liberties I have refused no toil no danger, no exertion that could poſsibly prevent it. I did not ask from you reward, but I did not expect ingratitude & persecution. It is this that forces from me so much about myself, & it is a painful, a bitter neceſsity. Never before did I speak of myself & my services. The voice of my Countrymen & of all those who saw & knew my actions with the constant confidence of Congreſs spared me the ungracious task.

vest in Mr. Deane alone. I was dispatched to Madrid, Dr. Franklin, or Mr. Deane was to go to Holland. Suppose it had been the former; then Mr. Deane whose acquaintance with Europe, its Language, Courts, & politics, was of two whole months standing, & who had travelled quite from Bordeaux to Paris, might have had at once the Negotiations to manage with the Courts of Versailles, Vienna, Pruſsia, Portugal, Sardinia, Naples, Tuscany, Ruſsia, Sweeden, Denmark, Poland, the Swiſs Cantons, all the Electors & Sovereign Princes of the Empire, those of Italy, the Grand Seignor, the Emperor of Morocco, and the Barbary States. Yet I do not remember that the modesty and diffidence of Mr. Deane expreſsd the least apprehension at the probability of so much power devolving upon him alone. His mind seems to have been entirely employd in providing against the poſsibility of so unequal a weight falling upon my shoulders. We are not to search too deep for the motive of so obliging an act.

Mr. Deane's piece was published on the 5th of December. On the 24th of September preceeding Dr. Franklin was chosen Minister plenipotentiary here, & consequently I was no more a Commiſsioner at the Court of Versailles. If it were poſsible to conceive that Mr. Deane tho' residing in Philadelphia, & attentive to the proceedings of Congreſs, coud be ignorant of this, his own advices to France announcing it, woud prove that when he published to the people on the 5th of December "that I was joint Commiſsioner at the Court " of Versailles & sole Commiſsioner at the Court of Madrid," he aſserted that which he knew to be untrue: And this with the worst and basest of all purposes — the imposing upon the public, to induce them to censure Congreſs & myself unjustly.

Mr. Deane informs the people that — "unfortunately for them

" I gave universal disgust to the Nation whose assistance we " sollicited." He had taken so entirely the business of the Commission into his own hands, that not a millionth part of the nation knew that I was a Commissioner, or even that I existed. Of all the letters addressed from different parts of the Kingdom, there was not one in a hundred which bore my name. The following passage in a letter from the Messrs Delaps of Bordeaux will shew the fact & the reason of it.

January 3d 1778.

" We wrote several letters addressed to your direction to which " we received answers only from Messrs Franklin & Deane; which " gave us room to imagine you were absent in consequence of " which we applyd only to them Gentlemen."

Neither these letters nor answers in general were communicated to me. ~~But~~ In answer to his assertion I will subjoin a single weeks engagements from my memorandums, from which every one may judge on what Terms I was with the french Nation. Possibly Mr Deane may have poetically put his Friend Mr Beaumarchais for the french Nation, as I have certainly given him disgust by opposing a demand for £200,000 Sterling against my Country; the justice of which I have very good reason to doubt.

Note of Engagements to dine. — Thursday Mr Turgot. — Friday Count Sarsfield — Saturday Count Walsh — Sunday Prince Tingry. — Monday Duchesse d'Anville. — Tuesday M. de Sartine & Ministre de Guerre. — Thursday le Mareschal Duc de Mouchy. — Saturday Duc D'Aien. —

Mr Deane's calumny obliges me to make a shew of the attention paid to me here by persons of the highest rank; which otherwise I shoud never have mentiond. There coud not be a thing more notorious than that I aſsociated with, & cultivated the french people ten times more than Mr. Deane.

It is true I did not attempt to have my name celebrated, as all-powerful and all-bounteous, in every Coffee-House in Paris, by arrogating sovereign power, giving Commiſsions & recommendatory Letters to all persons who woud attend at my levy, & flatter my greatneſs. I considerd such Conduct as criminal & never concurrd in it. In my Judgment it was an usurpation of the sovereign power, which sent us, & exercisd without the least distinction or discernment. It is in vain to say, the Court was desirous those Officers might be sent, & that recommendatory letters were not conclusive upon Congreſs. I have had it from Count de Vergennes himself that he disapprovd of it. Those who gave the recommendatory letters knew, that the persons receiving them, considerd them as Commiſsions; and when they were disappointed, they deemd & complaind of it as an act of the highest injustice. Congreſs know how much money & disquiet these ill-judgd & presumptuous proceedings have cost them & the public.

As soon as Mr. Deane informd me of his arrival and buſineſs I came to Paris, at the hazard of my Life, to consult with him, and communicate to him whatever was in my power for his information. Without derogating from the transcendent abilities, of which this Gentleman thinks himself poſseſsd; it might have been supposd that one who had been so long in Europe, engaged and active from the beginning in this question, repeatedly employd, and actually in equal trust with himself, might have given some useful Advice. But Mr. Deane neither ever communicated, or consulted with me; & when

I offerd my opinion, he receivd it with such captious rudeneſs and indecency, as soon satisfyd me of the Inutility of again repeating it.

I hope I shall be pardond for begging the attention of Congreſs, while I also answer the Accusation of Mr. Deane against my Brother; who, being absent in Germany, cannot defend himself by this opportunity. I have in my poſseſsion proofs of the untruth of every charge, which he has made.

Mr. Deane says that after informing Mr. William Lee of his appointment as Commercial Agent, "he heard nothing from him till the month of June, when he arrivd in Paris." My Brother wrote to me immediately that he woud come over as soon as he coud settle his affairs; of which I informd both my Colleagues. He came when I was in Germany & remaind here by the Expreſs advice of Dr. Franklin & Mr. Deane, he having no Commiſsion to act, and they refusing to give him any countenance, till Mr. Roſs wrote in the following Words from Nantes to testify that he was authorizd, & to preſs his coming down.

Nantes. July 22. 1777 —

" Permit me now to inform you, that Mr. Morris is poſseſsd of
" the Instructions to Mr. Lee from Committee of Congreſs, on his being
" appointed Commercial Agent here; since your last letter came to
" my hand I suspected this to be the Case, from some circumstances
" and by accident last Evening learnt it to be so. These Instructions
" are containd in a letter addreſsd to Mr Lee, & Mr Morris, as joint
" Agents, which is similar & of equal force, with the seperate powers
" on which Mr. Morris has acted hitherto. I therefore take the
" Liberty to recommend Mr. Lee's repairing hither immediately
" to aſsume the management. (signd) Jno. Roſs

This letter was addreſsd to Mr. Deane. Their consent coud now no longer with any decency be withheld, & my Brother set out for Nantes, with a letter from us recommending harmony between the Commercial Agents in conducting the public busineſs. Unfortunately for my Brother's peace, that harmony appeard to have taken place, as we soon receivd a joint letter from them, stating that the powers given to Mr Williams by Mr Deane, for his name only appeard to them, tho' it appeard afterwards that Dr. Franklin had confirmd them, were incompatable with their Agency, & therefore they requested those powers might be recalld. An answer was prepard to this letter, & shewn to me. It express'd a willingness to recal those powers, & to vest them in Mr. Lee alone, with very strong expressions against Mr. Morris. I spoke what was obvious, that this woud destroy the harmony recommended, & without which the public business coud not go on. That the right answer seemd to me plain & simple; which was to recal the powers complaind of, without saying any thing for or against either of the Gentleman, which it was manifest woud be productive of bad consequences. My opinion was not approvd. Neither that nor any other answer was ever sent to this or to any of the letters written to us by the Agents jointly or separately.

My Brother returnd to Paris in October & there receivd his Commission. On the 13th the Commissioners met by his desire (and Mr. Izard attended) when he gave them an Account of the situation of the Commercial Affairs at Nantes, and stated that, in consequen of the powers given to Mr. Williams a quarrel had been produced, which made it impossible to conduct the public Business with effect, till these were recald, & the Commissioners gave their support openly to the Agents appointed by the Committee. The said People general coud not determine who was commercial Agent, & others took advantage of their mutual pretentions, & endeavord to play one against the other. There was a prize, or prizes, lying stripped plundered, & rotting; no one chusing to become Purchaser, und an uncertainty of who had the true authority to sell. He therefore begg'd to know whether they woud recal their order to Mr. Williams, support him in the Execution of his office. The two eldest Commissioners professd a willingness to recal the order[a] but positively refusd to give him any support. Thus the meeting ended ineffectually, the order being not only not recald, but soon after confirmd & extended. Congress will therefore judge with what propriety & truth Mr. Lee is accusd of having declind to regulate these affairs when loudly calld upon. The addition that he declind it, lest his property in England should be affected, is a surmise & a calumny entirely worthy of Mr. Deane. A Letter had long before that been written from Paris to London & publishd in the News-papers, giving ~~his~~ Mr. Lees name at large, with information of his being in Paris, and having accepted of the Commercial Agency. His wife, Children, & fortune were in the power of the Enemy, to whom this information was given. I am not the only person, who had it from a Gentleman much in their secrets, that this Letter was written by persons under Mr. Deane's roof, and known to be under his direction.

Mr. Deane proceeds — "He returnd to Paris, and there receivd his appointments of Commissioner to the Courts of Vienna & Berlin. He continued nevertheless inactive at Paris until the Month of December; carefully concealing his appointment, which might indeed have militated against his Office of Alderman of London, which he did then & probably does still retain. When the news of General Burgoyne's defeat and surrender arrivd, it produced a revolution in the Minds of many, and among others inspird your Commercial Agent & political Commissioner, the Honorable William Lee, Esqr. with some degree of activity in your favor."

This infamous aspersion comes from the man, who knew that my Brother had come from London, had openly taken upon him the Agency, went down to Nantes, where every one saw him act as

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[a]. The sincerity of this profession will appear from the following passage in Mr Williams's letter addressd to the Honble Silas Deane. dated Nantes Octr. 21. 1777. "I have receivd your favour of the 18th Instant, and observe that matters relative "to the Ships of War & prizes are to "remain as they were, &c." — This letter also shews the private traffic they were carrying on, respecting the prize Brig. — See Appendix [illegible]

Agent, & had written a number of Letters as such to the Commissioners, and of whose acceptance of the place, public Notice had long been given in the English Papers.

His appointments as Commissioner were received by us, & given to him by us, as appears by our Common Letter to the Committee. From whom then did he carefully conceal them? Does this man mean that he did not proclaim them to the World? He charges me with not concealing mine; and my Brother with concealing his. Charges equally false & equally foolish.

On the 13th of November, as I was in Correspondence with the Prussian Secretary of State, I wrote to him, by my Brothers desire, as follows. — Since I had the honor of Answering your Excellency's
"favor of the 8th a Commission has been received appointing William
"Lee, Esqr. Deputy of Congress to the Court of Berlin, with powers to
"negotiate a treaty of amity & Commerce with the King of Prussia.
"Your Excellency will have the goodness to communicate to us his
"Majesty's pleasure, relative to this Commissioners coming to Berlin
"in which he will entirely conform himself to the King's sentiments."

To this I received the following answer dated the 28th of November.

"As to the commission of William Lee esquire, the king having frequently declared
"Quant à la Commission du Sieur Guillaume Lee, le Roy ayant
his sentiments about the real difficulties that oppose making a Treaty of Commerce
"declaré plusieurs fois, ses sentimens sur les difficultés actuelles
with America: in spite of his Majesties uniform goodwill for the Colonies, he cannot
"d'une liaison de Commerce avec l'Amerique, malgré sa bonne
discover how, as circumstances remain unchanged, Mr. Lee can make more acceptable
"volonté constante pour les Colonies, ne sauroit prevoir comment
proposals to his Majesty, or, by consequence, what can be the end or success of his mission."
"les Circonstances n'ayant point changées, le Sieur Lee pourrait
"faire à sa Majesté des propositions plus acceptables, ni par
"consequent, quel pourroit être le but ou le succès de sa mission."

On the 23 of December he wrote me again. — "I shall not
"Je ne manque-
fail to inform Mr. William Lee when the King judges that his coming to
"rai pas d'avertir M. Guillaume Lee, dès que le Roi jugera que
Berlin can be attended with mutual utility."
"son arrivée à Berlin peut être d'une utilité mutuelle."

The Death of the Elector of Bavaria, as I mentioned before, prevented this moment of mutual utility from arriving, & consequently my Brothers reception at Berlin.

In the mean time my Brother himself communicated his Com-
mission for Vienna to Count Merci, the Imperial Ambassador
who informed his Court; from which still less encouragement was
received.

On the 4th of December, Mr Austin arrived with the news of
Burgoyne's defeat & Surrender, & the battle of German Town. The
French Court upon this, approaching us to treat; it was thought pro-
per for him, especially as the Court of Prussia promised to follow their
example, to wait the effect of the Conclusion of the Treaty, and the Recog-
nition of our Independence which we supposed woud follow it. When
these took place he departed for Frankfort, having first consulted
both the Commissioners here & the minister, on which Court he
shoud apply to first. That Hanover and its Connections having
taken part against the Empress, Vienna seemd to promise the
fairest opening. The rest he will explain himself. It suffices
that I have said enough to shew the Malice, & untruth of Mr
Deane's charges & insinuations, or as he terms them his
"stubborn & undeniable facts."

As to the Aldermanship, my Brother wrote soon after his
first arrival here to his most patriotic Common Council
men, that he woud send them his resignation whenever they
found it convenient to make a new Election as they liked. It
appears by the English papers that it was not till last St
Thomas's Day, that they requested his resignation, and this
in Consequence of a second offer from him at Frankfort.

"He appointed, says Mr Deane, sundry commercial Agents,
dismissed one who did the business for 2 p Ct. & shares 5 p Ct.+
with the others for superintending at Vienna, the business done
on your account a thousand Miles off from his place of residence."
This Accuser is one who applyd to the Court here, to give Mr
William Lee, as surviving Commercial Agent, an order to receive

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+ Mr. Wm Lee has transmitted an affidavit in due form that this is false, & also certificates from the Agents themselves of its utter falsehood.

the papers of the deceased Mr. Thomas Morris. Of this our joint letter of January informed Congreſs. In Mr. Deane's estimation therefore he continued competent to, & bound to act in that office, notwithstanding his new appointment. To discharge that trust, till a new Agent shoud be nominated, my Brother appointed three of the most unexceptionable men in France, Meſsieurs Schweighauser, Bondfield, & Limosin. All this he wrote to the Committee, desiring a new appointment, & we both preſsd the same to our private Friends, as eſsentially neceſsary for the public good.

It is now a year since Congreſs resolved, that the Commiſsioners here shoud appoint an Agent or two to supply his place. We answered Congreſs, that as they woud probably appoint Consuls agreeably to the Treaty, we shoud inform Congreſs if we found it neceſsary to make any change in the Agents Mr. William Lee had appointed.

That he diſmiſsd Mr. Williams is directly contrary to truth. He neither appointed nor diſmiſsd him. Dr. Franklin & Mr. Deane appointed him; Dr. Franklin, Mr. Adams & myself diſmiſsd him^A. I send proofs from Mr. Williams's own letter, & accounts that he has done the very thing with regard to sharing the 5 P Ct. with which Mr. Deane charges my Brother (a). I also enclose evidence from the letters of Mr. Williams & Mr. Morris, that it was the latter who made this agreement with him, without the knowledge or participation of my Brother; tho' they knew he was joint Commercial Agent, & was at Paris, where it was the intention of the Committee, that the Agent shoud reside, & where Mr. Deane must acknowledge he stationd himself, when in that department. It was by such little tricks as these that

all

(a). Extract of a letter from Mr. Williams to the Commiſsioners, dated Feby 28th 1778. "I must beg leave to remind "you of the agreement I made with the "late Mr. Morris by which I was to "account with him for all sales and "purchases that I shoud make in "consequence of his authority charging "the Commiſsion of 5 P Ct allowed by the "Committee of Congreſs between him "& myself".

From Jonathan Williams' Acct of disbursements
Independence Capt. Young. Common at 5 P Ct 238 - 9 - 11
Ranger Capt. Jones . . Do at 5 P Ct 3738 " - "
See Appendix No. 4 & 5

all order and decency were banished from the Conduct of our Commercial affairs. Either my Brother must have acquiesced in this agreement whether he approved of it or not; or he must have quarrelled with his Colleagues, either of which, those who contrived it knew would equally answer their purpose.

When called into the public Service my Brother quitted a situation in London, at which few Strangers ever arrive. He came here in expectation of doing service; instead of which he was treated with every kind of Indignity by Mr. Deane, & obliged to acquiesce under the usurpation of his place & powers by one, who a year before had been Clerk to a Sugar Baker in that City, where he was one of the chief Majistrates & Merchants.

As to the Commissions which Mr. W. Lee is said to have shared, he neither stipulated for, nor shared any with those he appointed; & I am most sure that he made more by his business in any one week in London, than his Commissions on the public business have amounted to in ten months. But how utterly void of every sense of shame & decency must Mr. Deane be, who inveighs so violently against my Brother for bearing at once a political and Commercial Character, when he tells us in the same Breath, that he himself was the "political & commercial agent of America in *Europe*". He resided at Paris, had 5 PCt. Commission, and his sphere extended not a thousand only, but three times a thousand miles. He, whose extent of travelling had been bounded by Philadelphia, and whose former life gave him as much opportunity of knowing the Merchants & Politicks, the Commercial & political State of Europe, as the Ship that brought him. Besides that his total unacquaintance with the Languages of Europe, rendered the acquisition of that Knowledge, for some time at least, utterly impracticable. I have sent Congress Copies of Mr. Williams's Accounts, from which it will appear, that instead of having done your business for 2 PCt. he has received 2 PCt. for *not doing your business*, & a M. Peltier du Doyer 1 PCt. besides gratuities *for doing it*. To

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any other man but Mr. Deane it woud be felt as worse than death that among the multitude of his charges & assertions there is not one, but what is refutable by written evidence.

After having thus expos'd the malice & untruth of Mr. Deane's accusations, the honor of every man in Congress must feel for my situation, when I assure them, that since my return from Spain, this assassination of my Character, which is now extended to America, has been practised without intermission by a cabal of Mr. Deane's, both in Paris & London. These imputations were so artfully & industriously urg'd, that my best friends were tainted by them for some time. But this is not a subject which I shall now enter into.

In every accusation the Character of the Accuser ought to be considerd. Is Mr. Deane's Character fair? Is he an unaccus'd man, & has he answer'd by any thing but his own assertions the accusations against him? Do not his own confessions render him criminal, & are there not upon the records of Congress, or of the Committee, evidence from himself of his illegal conduct, and of the malice & falshood of many of his accusations against my Brother & me?

"Mr. Lee, says this Accuser, was dragg'd into the Treaty with "the utmost reluctance."

The authenticated extracts which I have the honor of sending from my private & public Letters from the first moment of the Treaty being taken up by this Court till after its conclusion; will shew that this charge too is, like all others, destitute of every colour of truth. No man, it will appear, coud be more anxious for its conclusion, nor any one more rejoic'd, or more sanguine in his Expectations from it, than myself. Every letter will shew how strongly my sentiments were against England, and in favor of France. It was my hope & expectation, as I wrote Mr. S.

Adams

Adams on the 1st of March — "that the British Commiſsioners
" woud return as they came, unleſs they had power & did acknow-
"-ledge clearly & fully, the sovereignty & Independence of America,
" as an indispensible preliminary." — This hope and this expec-
-tation were fully gratifyd by the proceedings of Congreſs.

I also gave immediate information of the intention the british Ministry discoverd of endeavoring to succeed by bribery. Congreſs know whether Mr. Deane gave the same warning, for he certainly was also informd of it.

The variety of Accusations which it hath pleasd Mr. Deane to make against my Brother & me has neceſsarily drawn this answer into a tedious length. Congreſs I am sure will pardon me. When I enterd the public Service, it was with a resolution of serving at the hazard of every thing, but of my honor and reputation. Yet I feel it as a real misfortune, that I am compelld to call so much of your Attention to what may be deemd the concerns of Individuals. But in truth the public is highly interested in the question.

There is one observation on Mr. Deane's conduct which I cannot omit.

He acknowledges his having been poſseſsd both of his suspicions, & what he grounds "them upon," when he left France. This woud induce us to believe, that he considerd his recal not to be for any misdemeanors; but to give Congreſs an account of their affairs in Europe. For this purpose he had two Audiences of Congreſs. Now I appeal to every man living, whether if he had the least evidence to support his suspicion, or had any sense of the duty he owd to his Country, his first word ought not to have been — Gentleman, I have a Matter to communicate of the last importance to these United States; I beg a Secret Committee may be immediately appointed, to whom

I

[3] Not a word of information from Mr. Deane

I may make it known; that upon their report you may take such measures as you may think the welfare of the public requires.—c Coud there be possibly any thing more highly and immediately interesting to the Common weal; than the Treachery of one so highly trusted as I was, and poſseſsd of such a knowledge of your affairs, as to have it in my power to do infinite injury? If he really believed what he pretends, coud he have avoided making this Communication? Does he not know that if what he mentions coud be proved, it woud fix treason upon me, that his concealment of it so long is misprision of treason? From the 19th of August to the 5th of December he left me to do all the mischief to the public, which he coud not but expect I shoud do, if I were guilty of what he accuses me.

D.

At length he publishes it to all the World, & of consequence to me. It was therefore a warning to me, if guilty, to go over to the Enemy with every communication that coud be injurious to your interest. The extremes of folly & wickedneſs combind coud not have dictated a conduct so opposite to what he ought to have pursued.

The truth is that Mr. Deane expected from the effect of a french fleet; of which he was to claim the sole merit; the brilliancy of a diamond Snuff Box, & complimentary letters, that he shoud have nothing to do but make his triumphal entry into Philadelphia & return immediately to Paris. I do not speak from conjecture. It was the constant talk of his friends here; & is matter of common notoriety. Deceivd in his Expectation, & unable to answer for his conduct, he is searching an asylum in popular prejudices. In the moment that he censures me, for having made a tour to reach Berlin in Safety, he discovers his having waited a month with the order of Congreſs — "to make all poſsible dispatch," and then made a six weeks tour of France & the Mediterranean, to get to Sea & be escorted in safety by a French fleet; but not meaning to give any account of his conduct, he placed his papers & ours in safety; the existing Commissioners having no right to see the latter; & no doubt in expectation of a much safer opportunity of conveying them, than under the convoy of 12 Ships of the line.

I have only now to remark, that if the Crimes of which Mr. Deane is clearly guilty, & the conduct which he himself confesses, are permitted to pass unpunished, there is an end to all Expectation of public Justice. The impunity of the past will encourage greater Crimes against the public; and all order, virtue, dignity, & decency will be constantly transgressed.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient Hble Servant

Arthur Lee

PS.

I wish to inform Congress once for all, that many of the letters & papers, from whence the preceding proofs are drawn have fallen into my hands since the departure of Mr. Deane, having been left (I presume in his hurry) among the mass of garbled & refuse papers, which he did not think worth depositing in safety. These papers have en demanded of me by Dr. Franklin since his appointment as Minister here. But as all the other papers belonging to the late joint Commissioners are partly in Mr. Deane's & partly in Dr. Franklin's possession, and as those few I have are absolutely necessary to my vindication, I conceive it utterly unjust, that either my Accuse or one who has always, & in all things, joined him against me, should have possession of them; & therefore I was obliged to beg Dr. Franklin would command me in something else.

As.

As the vouchers which I send, contain names & matters which ought to be kept profoundly secret; I must beg that Congreſs will have the goodneſs to appoint a secret Committee to examine them, & report upon their being authenticated, & upon their validity to support what I have alledgd.

A Lee

Copy Quadruplicate.

H. Ford. Sec.

Note to come in at page 55.

(a). "Some time in march last Samuel Wharton informd me by
" letter that he feard his Brother Joseph Wharton (who had lost
" near £10,000 Sterlg. by the Bankruptcy of Richard Ford & Co.) was
" disposd to endeavour to repair his loſses by insurances of
" political Events, & that Mr. Thornton was as he suspected
" encouraging & misleading him into that kind of specula
" A few weeks after Mr. Austin informd me that Mr. Thornto
" had shewn him a note of hand for £500 payable by Mr. Jos
" Wharton to Mr. Thorpton on Condition that war shoud be
" declard before a certain day in April; this note I understoo
" to have been obtaind by Mr. Thornton from Mr. Wharton as
" a Consideration for some Intelligence."

~~Letters and other~~
~~Papers which were~~
~~Lent to Public~~
~~[illegible]~~ —

~~Letters~~
~~from Dr. [illegible]~~
&
~~a few publick papers~~

(No 111)

2 Fragments of
Arthur Lee's
Letter to Congress
=
Defence against the charges
of Silas Deane & his
Cabal.

N.B. – The fragments seem to
be copied by different hands.
The first in Small Quarto, contains
28 pages. The second in large
folio, contains 15 pages
beginning with 17 & ending
with 31.

A. Lee to
Congress
(Fragment)

My dear brother (No 111)

The only design in this is to inform you that the most $\overset{b}{64.6.XX}$ $\overset{enemy}{145.a.XXXVI}$ we have is possessed of the $\overset{code}{86.a.XXVIII}$ we have corresponded with — It is $\overset{(Merriwether\ Smith)}{240.b.XXXII\ 343.b.XXX}$ that has it — & of all characters, his is the $\overset{worst}{425.a.VI}$. our Brother London has a cipher that you sent him, if you remember; that, it will do, mixing it with the present, or by itself — We have taken 11 Jamaicamen, of which 8 are arrived having upwards of 5000 hhds of Sugar & rum on bod — This must avail us & distress our enemies — the campaign has furnished nothing very important. The enemy are totally disappointed in the South & on the western frontiers — The Union of Spain will be of infinite advantage to us — We are preparing to publish the most essential parts of your reply to Deane, that Wretch is well understood now, & his adherents ashamed to countenance him openly — he is discharged by Congress from any further attendance or dependence on them — Love to my boys & to our Brother & sister — farewell

Richard Henry Lee

Copy duplicate.

2

Honorable Arthur Lee

R. H. Lee to Arthur Lee

(No 111)

(Duplicate Copy
without Date)

Mr. Deane in various parts of his Narrative aſsumes the whole transaction with Beaumarchais — Consider his duplicity by comparing his own letter on this busineſs by Mr. Francois with his letters in conjunction with his Colleagues both before and after his letter by Mr. Francois—

In the 42d. page of the Narrative it is said "In Mr. Lee's absence in Spain a contract was made with the Farmers General for 5000 hhds Tob: &c— Observe the nature of this Contract and see how injurious it will be after the price in America, the freight, insurance, and Com=miſsions are paid.

In Page 44, 'tis said Mr. Hodge & soon after him Capt. Bell arrived with dispatches from Congreſs, in which the Commiſsioners were directed to fit out, if in their power to do it armed Cruisers from France to ~~anne~~ annoy the British Trade in Europe, and blank Commiſsions were sent for this pur=pose" See the Secret Committee's letter to Mr. Hodge and observe how totally and expreſsly different it is from the State here given by Mr. Deane. See also the expreſs condition on which alone Congreſs agree that armed Veſsels shall be fitted out in France, by their resolve on this subject at Baltimore first of 1777. immediately transmitted to the Commiſsioners. The busineſs of Cunninghame is expreſsly opposed to the directions of the Committee, to the resolve of Congreſs and to the repeated injunctions of the Court of France — But Cunninghames affair was a Job of mixed public & private concern for the benefit chiefly of the latter. See Mr. Hodges letter where he says Mr. Deane was a third part concerned in this Cutter of Cunninghame— Thus sacrificing public good & public trust to private views.

Observe his praises of Williams and compare it with

(No 273)

Rob. Morris's letter saying Mr. Deane was in partnership with Williams – also the inclosed letter from Williams to Deane proposing leave to draw at pleasure on the Banker at Paris with whom was lodged all the money of the United States in France, and his particular expression "*My connections with you being known*"

See also in the Commercial Committee, the Vessels sent by Mr. Williams here with Stores bringing no Charter parties, or information by which it might be known what was to be done with the Vessels after they ~~[illegible]~~ had discharged their Cargoes, and the consequent inconveniences.

This does not imply such great ability as Mr. Deane describes – But it seems Mr. Williams was Mr. Deanes partner –

N: 186

Notes loose

(No 272)

I did not return from the Conclave till 5 o'clock, hard duty ~~for~~ to an infirm Man I there heard the Vindication read, but there is a Man who can never read distinctly & deliberatly when he does not like the subject — long debates, whether the Vouchers shd. be read at length carried in the affirmative. I recd. much satisfaction, but not so with every body one seemed to be on a Gridiron, another in Purgatory, another attempting to take notes, but the subject was painfull, he sickened & threw down ~~the~~ his pen. one looked to be in a situation in which he ought long since to have been — suspended — from his ~~ete~~ eternal versatility. I suspect he will become a re convert. My best complimts. to Mr. F. L. Lee, I feel myself happy in finding I have taken the honest side, & that I may therefore congralutate with your families & all ~~their~~ your friends; I shd. have crept into an Auger hole had it appeared that I had (altho mistakenly) been an advocate for a rogue; little as I have left of worldly wealth, I wd. give 500 Guineas for A. Lee's company tonight in this room. he shd. not leave Phila. untill he had pointed out the way for obtaining Justice to his injured Country; his Country wod. not part with him untill they had done him honor.

An honest man's the noblest work of God.

This morning I mean to move Congreſs to order the Vindication of the Honble. Arthur Lee Esqr. together with all the supporting Vouchers to be made public; Mr. D— appealed to the Public, which in his elegant style, "caused great sensations" — the Public therefore have a right to know what has been said by the other party, & I am persuaded when they are informed that an ansr. is recd. they will aſsert their right & demand information

We have made no progreſs either in finances or foreign affairs, except in the former case, what you must have seen published, & in the latter, another private audience, the product of which, my discretion, not my obligation restrains me from divulging. I peremptorily & repeatedly refused to give my promise to keep secret anything called by that name in ~~t~~ the State House. In the present case I had the best reason in the world for makg. the declaration, the secret was communicated to a few select friends, before it was announced from the Chair, one of these elect, immediatly transmitted it to a place some 700 miles distant, & afterward with a very grave white face pledged his honor to keep all mum. — I charged him home, he laught guilt & did not deny. nevertheleſs I will not follow the bad example, nor do an ~~thing~~ inexpedient Act, because it is barely Lawfull. in due time you will know all. —— the appointmt. of Doctor Franklin to be sole Minister at the Court of Versailes, has afforded the greatest satisfactn. & now the confidence of the Court will be no longer withheld" — be this as it may, we receive no intelligence from our Servants, except from the suspected person & his Accts. are as ample, as Valid, & as clear as any we receive from the fountain above them. This is queer, he is respecte not trusted, yet he is honest, learns & communicates everything. —

Mr. A. Lee has apprized us of the ravaging scheme in Connecticut plotted at White Hall, which is at this instant in execution under the auspices of Genl. Tryon.

If Congress now suffer Mr. D— to leave the American shore, before he shall have settled his Accts or shall have given good & sufficient security to accot. for all the public money which has passed thro' his hands, we shall have to account for our own Conduct to the People at large.

Extracts from
Mr. F. L.s Letter

(No 315) No date

The Key you sent will not explain a Letter of
Doct.r Lee of Paris Aug: 31. 1778 nor will the Dictionary
that has, at last, been delivered to the Committee for
for.d affairs. I hope you can assist me, tho'
I rather think that yr Brother has lately sent
some other Key, which may have been lost.

I give you the first Paragraph

Gent:

It has been hinted to me that there
negotiation
will be, two important subjects of 253, b, IX, with
Spanish Court
the 348, a XXIV. 108, a, IX, upon which I beg to have the
orders of Congress
262, a, XXXIV. of 99, a, XVII,
Spanish Navy
1.st Providing the 348, a, XXIV 252, b, XX, with
Masts
227, a, XXXI-s at a stipulated and as reasonable
a price as possible
Cession Florida
2.d The 81, b, XX, of 165, a, VIII. - a should it be 99, b,
Conquer'd
XXX - d to them.
Stipulate
For this they would 356, a, XXVIII, whenever
peace concluded fund
272, b, II, is ^ 96, b, XX - d to furnish the 172, a,
sentiments
XXXI for 339, b, XXXVII - g all or great^ part of
proper
the 268, b, XXXVIII.

I cannot presume ^ to proceed at all on these
instruction
295, b, VIII - s, without express 211, b, XXXIV. In the
propositions

mean Time what further Lights I can obtain shall be communicated immediately.

I have the honor to be &c.

(No 315)

J. Lovell

(No 267) No date -

Hond. Sir

No ſooner arriv'd at Verſailles I inform Msgr. le Cte de Vergennes of your attention for him, and the deſire you had of ſealing up the papers you wanted him to read. To-morrow before twelve he'd have the whole translated. I have found here a London Entryd. with near the ſame details. Adm. Byron is gone from Halifax on the 4th Sept. with the Culloden to join Lord Howe. The invincible is Safe in St. John's river New-found land, from whence she is again put sea.

am

Hon.d Sir

with great respect

Your most humble and

obedient Servant

Genet

Genet to A. Lee

(No 267)

Mr. Arthur Lee Deputé du
Congres a Chaillot —

other parts wanting [illegible]
on my part to persuade him by every Argument I cou'd with decency make use of, either to deliver the papers if he had them or give a clear & decisive answer under his hand, but the answer still was. I have received a Letter from Mr. Lee & will answer it, he entered into a circumstantial detail relative to opening the Disps. which he declares was done by Mr. Deane, but as Mr. T has minuted down the substance of the conversation I shall sign my name & refer you to it, He said he had been wrote to by a person for Copy of the Disps. for Mr. Deane, which he had refused as he shoud think himself guilty of a dishonorable action in giving Copies to any person. He woud not declare whether he had them or not, or what was become of them

True Copie

Ludwell Lee.

Estimate of the british force in Canada & the Islands

Canada — — — men	3770
Jamaica 1st Battn Royl Americans & 5 Compys of Dalrymples Corps if compleat	1025.
At Granada 8 Cos of 4 B.A	520
At Tobago 2 D° D°.	130
At St Vincent's 6 Cos. 1st Battn Royl Americans —	390
At Dominica 4 D° —	260.
At Antigua 1 Battn of Royl Americans ———	650
At Barbadoes St Kitts Nevis Montserrat	None.

Estimate of the
British Force
in
Canada & Islands
=

(N° 333)

Dr. Sir

Williamsburg Jan. 2. 1780.

The inclosed letters which came to hand yesterday from France I do myself the pleasure of forwarding to you. I have had in my possession for you, two months, four numbers of the parliamentary register, containing the whole correspondence between the ministry & Sr. Wm. Howe & Burgoyne from the time of Howe's coming to America till the Convention of Saratoga. I kept them at first in hopes of seeing you here. that failing, I forgot to send them by your delegates, & am afraid the post would be too precarious & expensive. how shall I contrive them to you? we are informed, & I think so as to merit confidence, that Pensacola is taken & St. Augustine invested by the Spaniards. I hope we shall see you in the next assembly. I would advise you to procure lodgings in Richmond in time as they will be scarce. we had some intelligence lately that the enemy meant us an immediate visit. we are preparing for them. but I cannot say that I expect them. I am Dr. Sir

Your friend & servt.

Th: Jefferson

Frd

40
26.16
66.16

Richard Henry Lee esq

Westmoreland

8 – 7 300,000
7
8)2100000
262500
£13,120

Letter
Thos Jefferson Esqr.
To
The Honble R. H. Lee Esqr.

~~No 99~~

(№ 333)

Th: Jefferson

Dear Sir Amsterdam 3d. Janry. 1780

I have received your ~~Letters~~ of 24th, & 26th. December, in the latter of which is the Resolution respecting you, which I think is expressed in a v unfair, & ungentlemanlike manner. Th part of the Sentence ought to have stood first, & I wonder that your friends who delivered your Letter of resignation did not insist upon the Resolution being in that form. I have sent it to the paper you desire; but from the former conduct of the Editor, I do not think it ill be printed. You had better send it to Digges, & to the Courier de l'Europe, if are desirous of having it appear, which I think is of very little importance. I am glad to hear of Mr. Adams's arrival, &

hope soon to know the place of his miſsion; I can hardly think your information respecting it is well founded. The conduct of Congreſs gives me no reason to expect that reformation is so near at hand. You will I suppose think of returning home as so [illegible] sible. If the Confederacy arrives safe, she will be a good opportunity for you; surely Dr. Franklin's unwarrantable conduct respecting the Alliance will have made Congreſs put it out of his power to appropriate the Confederacy also to the private use of his friends. Jones sailed about a Week ago with a fair wind, and I hope is safe arrived at Brest before this. The Serapis, & Counteſs of Scarborough sailed three, or four days ago. The Wind has not been so favourable to them; they will be fortunate if they can get again into the Texel without meeting with the enemy. I am much surprised at what you write me about Beaumarchais' Pamphlet, & I should be very glad to see it; perhaps it may be found among the Booksellers of this place. It appears very extraordinary that I have received no Letters by Mr. Adams. If he had had any for me, he would I [illegible] ve sent them at the same time with your Letter from the Committee. I am inclined to think that his Commission is for Holland; it is, I think, probable that he has brought powers to treat in conjunction with France. If so, I pray to God that his Negotiation may prove successful. M. d'Estaing's unfortunate affair must have done us infinite injury. By alarming Clinton he has made him add the strength of Rhode Island to that of N. York; & being now much stronger than is necessary for the defence of that Post, it is probable he will send considerable reinforcements to General Prevost. If Charles Town should be taken, the Enemy will be able to make it impregnable, & will carry on the War against the French I—ds in the West Indies to very great advantage. . The French Ministry should endeavour to prevent that, by sending immediately a Fleet to Carolina which can lie very well in Port Royal Harbour. Commodore Gillon, & Captn. Joyner are here, & would both go willingly as Volunteers on board of such a Fleet.

I am Dr. Sr. affectionately Yours

Ra. Izard.

Thomas S Lee to B. Franklin

In Council, Annapolis Jan. 4th 1780

Sir

You will perceive by the enclosed Act, that the General Assembly of this State have ~~vested~~ invested you with authority to appoint one of the five gentlemen ~~therein named~~ nominated therein Trustee, for the purpose of carrying the same into execution, in case the Trustees heretofore appointed by the province of Maryland should neglect or refuse to act—

We request your Excellency to transmit a copy of the Act to Messrs. Russell, Grove, and Hanbury, Trustees appointed by the old government, and desire their immediate answer, whether they will transact the business, sell out the Stock, accept and pay the Bills, ~~drawn~~ drawn in pursuance of the Act; if they will execute the trust, we would have them directed to sell out the Stock immediately, and place the money in the hands of some Capital Banker in Amsterdam or Paris, subject to their drafts, in case Bills should be drawn on them. If the Trustees decline acting, we desire you would send the Trustee appointed by your Excellency a copy of the Act with similar directions to those above

As the proceedings of the General Assembly of this State relative to British property may reach your Excellency as soon as this letter, we think it necessary that you should be precisely informed on this subject, to prevent misrepresentation, and to obviate any difficulties that may occur in the transaction of this business

The House of Delegates during their last session proposed a Bill for the seisure and confiscation of all British property to the use of the State, except debts due from the inhabitants of this State to the subjects of the King of Great Britain. This Bill was rejected by the Senate, not because they were against the exception, but because they deemed a seisure and confiscation of British property at this time, improper; so that British property here continues in the state it ever was

We have only to solicit so much of your time and attention to this matter, as will be necessary to preserve the property of this State

We have the honor to be
with the most perfect respect
Your Excellency's
most obedient and
most humble servant
Thomas S. Lee

(Duplicate)

Maryland

In Council Annapolis

Sir 4th January 1780

You will perceive by the enclosed Act that the General Aſsembly of this State have invested you with authority to appoint one of the five Gentlemen nominated therein Trustee for the purpoſe of carrying the same into execution in case the Trustees heretofore appointed by the Province of Maryland should neglect or refuse to act

We request your Excellency to transmit a Copy of the Act to Meſs.rs Ruſsell Grove and Hanbury Trustees appointed by the old Government and desire their immediate Answer whether they will transact the Buſineſs, sell out the Stock accept and pay the Bills drawn in pursuance of the Act. if they will execute the Trust We would have them directed to sell out the Stock immediately and place the Money in the Hands of some capital Banker in Amsterdam or Paris subject to their draughts in case Bills should be drawn on them. If the Trustees decline acting

We desire you would send the Trustee appointed by your Excellency a Copy of the Act with similar Directions to those above.

As the Proceedings of the General Aſsembly of this State relative to British Property may reach your Excellency as soon as this Letter We think it neceſsary that you should be precisely informed on this Subject to prevent misrepresentation and to obviate any difficulties that may occur in the transaction of this Buſineſs

The House of Delegates during their last Seſsions proposed a Bill for the Seizure and Confiscation of all British Property to the Uſe of the State except Debts due from the Inhabitants of this State to the Subjects of the King of Great Britain: this Bill was rejected by the Senate, not because they were against the Exception but because they deemed a Seizure and Confiscation of british Property at this Time improper: so that british Property here continues in the State it ever was.

We have only to solicit so much of your time and attention to this Matter as will be neceſsary to preserve the Property of this State.

We have the Honor to be
with the most perfect Respect
Your Excellency's
most obedient and
most humble Servants

Tho. Sim Lee

His Exc. Benja Franklin Esqr.

Dear Sir

(No 325) Maryland January 5th 1780 —

From Col. Wm Fitzhugh Senr. of the Council of State.

I had the Honor to receive your very Acceptable favor from Paris of the 8th of June, By Mr. Stockton Via Philadelphia which came to Hand but a few Days ago; Had that Gentleman Arriv'd in this State, & I the Pleasure to meet Him, I Shou'd have been Happy in Shewing Him every Civility, & rendering the Country as Agreable to Him as Possible.

Our Affairs on the Continent have a favorable Appearance Our Army, Strong, Healthy & in High Spirits; The Enemy have Done nothing the last Summers Campaign, Except Burning Houses, Murdering some of Our Old Women, Ravishing a few Young Ones, & Stealing whatever happen'd to fall in their Way on Our Sea Coast & Inlets; such have been their Victories. & for these they have Paid Dearly, Having rec'd Several Severe Wraps in the Course of their Excursions. Their Fears of the Count D'Estaing's Fleet whilst at Georgia Confin'd their Outrages to a Narrow Compass, & tho He Unfortunately fail'd in the Siege of Savannah, yet He Has render'd the United States Infinite Service; As Genl. Clinton Apprehensive of an Attack at N York, Hastily — Evacuated Rhode Island, & Drew the Force from all His other Distant Posts to a Point, & have been Coop'd up at N york untill Little more than a fortnight ago, which has Lessen'd His Forrage, & must Distress His Army Greatly. The Season being then Advanc'd, & the Winter come on Severely, Nothing of Consequence can be undertaken sooner than March or April Next; We have However Advice, That General — Clinton with 6000 Men were Embarked at N york on the 20th Ulto. & their Destination. Chesapeake Bay. Georgia or S. Carrolina, & in Consequence, 4000 Brave Fellows Detached from Our Grand Army, Are on their March to the Southward, to Join General Lincoln, & will be in time to Give Mr. Clinton a Warm reception, Should He have got Clear of His Panick, & be remov'd from His Hiding Place N york But I have my Doubts of His Venturing Out. As the Weather Has been & Continues, Exceeding Severe. with Frequent Storms

Storms, & Exceſsive Frost & Snow; Shou'd General Lincoln receive the Addition intended to his Army, Before the Enemy Reinforces their Posts In Georgia. I hope He will be able in a Short time to recover that Country.

General Washingtons Head Quarters are at Morris Town in the Jerseys, & His Army Conveniently Divided, & Canton'd in that State

I am much Oblig'd to you for the Abridgement of your refutation of Mr. S Deanes Charges against you; It Serves only to Confirm the Opinion I had before Entertain'd of His Villany; & I believe Congreſs, In which Body He had form'd a Powerful Party, Are now Sensible that they gave Him too much Credit; Indeed, from the Menacing Insolence with wch Mr. Deane treated them, They Appear'd to me, Alarm'd at His Threats, & Bully'd into Subservancy: Mr. R Morris I am told was at the Head of His Party, This Gentleman is now In Congreſs, & One of the most Extensive Speculators on the Continent of America. I am not Personally Acquainted with Him, But He must Excuse me for Suspecting. That He is an Enemy to America, Employ'd, & Furnish'd with Gold & Silver by the Enemy, to raise the Price of Provisions Depreciate Our Paper Money, & Diſtreſs Our Army. & I wish many more of those Diabolical Agents, may not be Interspers'd amongst Us for the same Wicked Purpose; The Force of Brittain, with Her Foreign, & Savage Allies, are an Atom to America, They have try'd it, They know it; & Their Sole Dependance is now on Fraud.

Nothing has transpir'd from what you said before Congreſs respecting Mr. Deane, I had no Intimation of it, Untill I rec'd your Extract, favor'd by Mr. Stockton, & When I have the Pleasure to Consult your Brothers. If They Shou'd think it Prudent, I will Publish (at Least) some Parts of it.

There has been a Great Change in Congreſs Since Mr. Deanes Affair was before them, & in many Instances for the Better; four of His Champions from this State Are Turn'd Out, & I Doubt not many Others from the Differen

Different States. As well as some Notorious Stock Jobbers & Speculators, & tho', that Honorable Body may Still require a Little Purging, I believe there are at Present, a Great Majority of very Able, & Warm friends to America, & the few who perhaps may be otherways are too Insignificant, to Raise a Party Sufficient to Interrupt the Publick Good; All the mischief they can do, will be to Give Inteligence to the Enemy of the Secret Acts of Congress, & knowing the Publick wants, May forestall the Markets, & Increase the Price of Provisions &c. to Impede the Supplys of Our Army. This has been Done, it is too Notorious, But every Measure is takeing by Congress, & the Different Legislatures to prevent it in future.

I observe with Pleasure what you Say on the Politicks of Europe; Much is Expected Here, from the Superiority of Our Great & Good Allies, & it is Hoped they will not let Slip the Opportunity they have this Winter, of Strikeing a Blow, which may Shake Brittain to the Center; This I could wish, to make the Business Sure & Independant of future Events, As we know not How far the Wealth of the Indias, may Opperate in Bribery, on the Different Powers on Europe; Tho Some of Our very Sound Whigs, & Sensible Politicians Here, are of Oppinion, That it would be better for America, that the War Should Continue a few years Longer, In Order that the repeated, Savage Cruelties of Brittain, Should more Generally Inflame the Minds of the Citizens of America & Obliterate that Prejudice, which Many retain in favor of the Mother Country, & Her Manufactures; This they Say, is the Only Security we can have for Our Independance, Of a Nation from Whom we are Derived & with whom we have been so Long Connected, By Blood

Religion

(No 32) Wm Fitzhugh Sr Jany 5th 1780) To Arthur Lee)

Religion, Language, Commerce &c. Advantages, which no other Nation on Earth, Except Brittain, could avail themselves of Against Us; & they by the Influence of such Advantages, May in a few years After Peace is Establish'd, — Insinuate themselves amongst us by thousands, & Tens of Thousands Spreading through the United States. Some Train'd Bands of Mansfieldites, Buteites, Germainites &c &c. with Gold & Every Art, to Corrupt, & Debauch Our Citizens, & being thus prepar'd whilst we are Unsuspecting, Labouring in Our fields, Sleeping in Our Habitations, or Sitting Under Our Peacefull Fig-trees. They may Suddenly Hurl Destruction on Our ~~on~~ Our Heads, & Overturn Our Independance for ever; There is ~~too~~ much truth in this Reasoning.

1780

| America is now preparing for an Early Campaign, & Each State Exerting Itself to Fill up its respective Batalions; Had this been Attended to in the beginning of The War, we should not at this time have had a British Garrison on the Continent of America. |

Our Troops have Distinguish'd themselves in many Instances in the last Summers Campaign, & have taught the Enemy to know, that they are an Overmatch for them, at their own favorite Weapon The Bayonet This they have had Sufficient Proofs of, at Monmouth, Stony Point, & Pauls Hook & have since become very Tender & Carefull of their Skins. — General Sulivan with 4000 Men in the Course of four Months of the last Summer, Broke up, Burn'd & Destroy'd, the whole Settlements of the Six Nations of Indians, & Drove them with about 1200 Torys into Canada Except what He took & Slaughter'd. & return'd with the Loss Only of 42 Men. — | Present my Affect Complts to yr Brotr William & Believe Me with Great Regard

Dear Sir

Your Affectionate.

Letter from Arthur Lee to Ct. Vergennes dated Paris, Jan. 6th 1780, announcing his departure in six days, & containing remarks on the dissentions that had prevailed among the American Commissioners.

à Versailles le 9. Janv.er 1780.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avés fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 6. de ce mois. Il dépendra de vous de vous rendre à Versailles mardi prochain pour prendre congé de Sa Majesté.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très sincèrement Monsieur votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur.

De Vergennes

M.r Arthur Lée.

Versailles 9th Jan.y 1780

I received, Sir, the Letter you did me the honor of writing me the 6th of this month. It rests with you to come to Versailles on tuesday next to take your leave of his Majesty.

I have the honor &c

De Vergennes

(N°334) January 10th 1780.

Richard H. Lee Esq;

Sir:

On my return from the West Indies, my brother informed me you had been so obliging as to mention me as Consul at Cape Francois — In a former letter addreſsed you from Williamsburg, I tendered you my most hearty acknowledgments for your kindneſs and attention — and intended on my return to the Country, to have done myself the pleasure of waiting on you — I am sorry that the severity of the season for some time past, and at present my engagements respecting a paſsage, deprive me of that satisfaction — As there is no person whose good opinion and esteem I should be more happy to cultivate, or whose good offices I would more earnestly solicit, I take the liberty of requesting your favour on any future occasion that may offer in my absence. Hearing that the busineſs of appointing Consuls was under the consideration of a Committee of

Congreſs

Congreſs, I communicated my wishes to serve the publick in this way, to some of my friends, who were pleased to recommend me to their Correspondents in Congreſs — Should a commercial treaty take place with the Dutch, I should prefer an appointment amongst them - or should any other employment offer in the Commercial line, which I should be deemed equal to, I would accept it with pleasure - for, to be candid, I have suffered so capitally by the depreciation of my money, which has been employed principally in the publick funds and derived so little advantage from [illegible] come hither to spend in the publick service - that it becomes neceſsary to procure some profitable employment - Whatever you may be pleased to communicate to my brother will be forwarded to me

I have the Hon. to be
Sir, your mo. Obt. S.

Rawleigh Colston

Richard Henry Lee Esq;

No. 58

1780

By Mr. Raleigh Colston

R. Colston

(No. 334)

~~No. 58~~

1880

Duplicate

(No 330)

Paris Jan. 19th 1780

Gentlemen,

Having signified to Count Vergennes the resolution of Congress assenting to my return; his Excellency proposed my taking leave of the King in form, & upon my doing so that Minister presented me his Majesty's picture set with Diamonds.

I thought it my duty to decline accepting it upon which his Excellency told me it was a mark of his Majesty's esteem & was never refused. After this it appeard to me improper to persist in the refusal, & I received it with a determination to leave it to the disposal of Congress. It is sufficient for me that the giving it is a distinguished proof of the untruth of what has been asserted that this Court was disgusted with me & dissatisfy'd at my conduct. The present itself I shall dispose of according to the pleasure of Congress.

His Majesty's portrait is graved upon my mind by the justice & virtue which constitute his character; of which Gold & Jewels cannot enhance the value.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest respect
Gentlemen yr. most Obed. Hble Servt.
A. Lee

Feby 3d
P. S. An expedition, with ten thousand of the Enemy's best troops will take place in about two months from Ireland; & tho from the profound Secrecy observed, I have not yet been able to discover its destination with certainty, yet I have sufficient reason to think that Boston is the object of it.

Feby 4th. On the 2d of this Month, M. de Guichen sail'd from Brest with 18 Ships of the line some Frigates & smaller Vessels, & between 3 & 4000 land Forces for the Islands. This we suppose will restore the superiority of the French in those

Please to

We are n yet certain whether Admiral Rodney has quitted the rest of the british Fleet to pursue his voyage to the W. Indies, whither he was destind with 8 Sail of the line, a large Convoy & about 5000 Troops.

~~No. 47.~~

~~No. 156~~

The Honble

The Committee for

foreign Correspondence

(No. 330)

A. Lee

to

Com^ee^. of Foreign Affairs

in

(19. Jan: 1780.)

(~~No. 156~~)

(No. 330)

20 Jan. 1780

Extracts of a Letter from Arthur Lee Esqr dated May 1. 1777, and Addressed thus, "Willm Lee Esqr. To the care of Dr. Franklin.

" Mr. D. you will treat with the respect due to his place,
" but not with confidence. And as he is a man of no in-
" considerable art, it will be prudent at least to avoid
" making him your Enemy. The Dr. certainly means
" well & is wise; but cold, slow & circumspect mode-
" ration will please him & attention to business is
" sure of his approbation". ———— "you will find
" a sage Counsellor in Dr. Franklin. Mr. Williams
" who is establish'd as our political Agent at Nantes
" is sensible & industrious, & will give you all the
" assistance in his power". ——

The Original Letter, from which
the above are true extracts,
was deliver'd to me in Paris
by Doctor Franklin.
W. Lee

I Certify this to be a true Copy
Edmd. Jenings

Bruxelles 20. Jan. 1780 –

Dr Br;

On the other side you have the Extracts of the Letter you desir'd. Mr Izard will tell you all the news of this place & that we are well. We have no letter from you for some time. My last was to the Hotel Vendôme. Adieu

Bordeaux 2d Jan 1780

[illegible] favored with [illegible] of
the [illegible] [illegible] I mentioned [illegible]
[illegible] Wharton [illegible] employd [illegible]
in the purchases there making I read the letter I quoted
[illegible] gentleman sent down by [illegible]
I have sold seventeen hundred pieces of [illegible]
[illegible] to guarantee the persons name to whom I have sold the
[illegible] Saml Wharton I suspect as I before mentioned
that [illegible] has obtained a commission from [illegible] to influence
[illegible] Mr Adams will probably be informing the
[illegible] a Gentleman arrived yesterday [illegible]
[illegible] have been [illegible] a few days [illegible]
[illegible] him forward The Confederacy [illegible]
[illegible] letters we should have heard from
him [illegible] I am sorry for Mr Jays disappointment I had a letter
from him last post shall [illegible] with respect

I am
Sir
Your [illegible]
John Bondfield

Dear Sir

The reasons for your not coming with [illegible] communicated to me, prove among other things a change of Sentiments & Conduct, which may be the cause of some good. I wish your Idea of [illegible] confirmed [illegible] mine. The Objects of the new Commissions are not at present I suppose publickly known. Should be glad to hear of them from you. As the arrival of Mr [illegible] be so good as to make my particular Compliments to him & let me know his Address. Mr Jn: will give you a Pamphlet from our friend in London it is written by one of the honestest men of my Acquaintance you will see in it a most enlarged Idea.

We shall I suppose soon know the sense of Holland on the violent & desperate Conduct of these Enemies of ~~mankind~~ nations. I cannot say what will be done but I thought the Law on this Subject is delivered in the Instit. dans les Institutions politiques du Baron de Bielfield who seems to have written expressly for the present Case. He says.

"Il est de la derniere Importance, pour la Navigation, que le Souverain fasse respecter le pavillon national dans toutes les mers du Monde. Ce respect est fondé sur le droit ~~naturel~~ universel des Gens, et plus encore sur la figure, qu'une puissance fait en Europe. Si une Nation entretient des flottes formidables, tant mieux; elle en protegera plus efficacement son Commerce, surtout en Temps de Guerre.

Mais quand même le pourrt, po
ait des Armées nombreuses et bien Aguerries da
son Pavillon sera surement a l'abri de toutes les
~~Liesdus Liaisons dans~~ Liaisons entre tous ces peu
Europe sont telles Aujourdhui, quils peuvent s'atte
~~btre~~ terre; et s'y venger de toutes les Insultes, qui a
souffertes par la mer. les pirateries, les brigandag
des Armateurs sont des violences si odieuses, et des
Injustices si Atroces, si nuisibles aux interets de toutes
les °les peuples ~~de l~~ Européennes, que tout est permis
°pour les reprimer. il seroit tres aisé de prouver, par
des principes incontestables du droit de la Nature et
des Gens, qu'une Nation, dont les Navires marchands ont été
Attacqués en pleine mer, et pris par des Armateurs, qui
cette Nation ~~Le~~ disje, est pleinement en droit de se venger
sur toutes les ~~pa~~ puissances possessions, qui la puissance, que
a fait agir ces Armateurs, peut avoir dans le Continent,
de quelque Nature quelles puissent être, et a quelque
Titre quelle puisse les tenir. La providence n'a ~~ag~~
accordé que [illegible] un peuple un Empire
exclusif sur la Mer. y Vouloir faire les Maîtres,
prescrire des loix a d'autres Nations libres & neutres,
c'est outrager toute l'Europe; et c'est la venger lorsqu'on
[illegible] peut mettre un pareil peuple a la

par dern [illegible]

true ?)
if this Law is [illegible] It cannot be made too publick [illegible] some Steps [illegible] for that purpose.

It is Impossible to say what part Holland will [illegible] disposed [illegible] Justifie ~~to herself~~ with the least [illegible] one Side, and with the greatest punishment on the [illegible] No Step more Obvious than the following ~~[illegible]~~ — [illegible] Her [illegible] a fleet of Ten Ships of the Line to the Cape of Good Hope & not only prevent all English Vessels from putting in there for Refreshment but even either driving them back or confiscating them untill they [illegible] full redress for the Injuries to their Commerce & insult to their flag. — it is evident that a Measure of this sort would either Annihilate the exorbitant Empire of G.B. in Asia or at least render it totally useless. & then Her Avarice & Ambition would be Checked at Once.

you know the Custom of the Pensions at Paris to be paid a Quarter before hand, & therefore that in the [illegible] St Honore [illegible] perhaps more depends. but I detain you [illegible] other things

Jany 24th 1780.

I am D Sir
Yours Sincerely
J [illegible]

1780 Jany. 25. The Minister by a Memorl. ac=
quainted Congress by positive orders from his
King that the present situation of the Affaires
of the Alliance in Europe announces the
necessity of a new Campaign to bring Eng-
d, the point of acknowledging the Independance
of the 13 U. States which is the essential
aim of the present War.
France making most propr. preparations
for continuing the War with Vigour & seems
resolvd to employ in the course of this year every
means in its power by some important operation
Indemnify itself for the losses it has sustaind.
Doubts not but France & Spain have concerted
plans to maintain that superiority which has
begun to appear in their favor. — The U. States
have nothing to wish touching the use that will be
made of the Resources of the Realms & the Efficacy
of the measure adopted by the Cabinets of Versailles &
Madrid. It is indispensably necessary that the U States
should make proportionable Efforts, and concert as far
as distance will allow, a plan of Co operation
The King informed of our wants in Arms & Ammun-
and has given orders to his Ministers to take measures
for supply — The Minister wishes to confer on
these objects and the present probable State of the

-gociation the [illegible] would not content any [illegible] fear that did not aſsure the Independence of the United States in some measure.

Jany 28th. Committee report the Communication of the Minister of France — That the British Cabinet have an almost insuperable Reluctance to admit the Idea of the Independence of these United States & will use every poſsible endeavors to prevent it — Filling several European Courts with Negociations to excite War against France or obtain succours. Persuading them that the United States are disposed to enter into Treaties of accommodation. That many persons are actually employed in bringing such Treaties to perfection & that they have no doubt of their succeſs His most Christian Majesty gives no credit to the suggestion — and it is neceſsary that measures be taken for the preventing other Powers from being deceived into a belief of them. That the Negociations of Britain as far as could yet be learnt have not succeeded. The disposition of [illegible] the European powers are as far as can be known very friendly to France, but some may be engaged in secret Treaties with Britain which may oblige them in some events to aſsist her with Troops even against their inclinations. Such an event may bring about an armed Negociation which would oblige the Allies to accept the negociation or contend with

dditional Force. In such a Case it is possible the
Terms proposed will be such as Spain offer'd & Britain
jected in the last propos'd negociation. Certain Powers
may be under such engagements by Treaty to Britain
s to feel indispensible obligations to aid her tho'
unwillingly, but their distance may delay
such assistance, if granted at all, so as to be
too late for the next Campaign. If the Enemy
e in possession of any part of the United
States at the Close of the next Campaign it
will be extremely difficult for a Mediation
o find Arguments against her holding it
perhaps a mediation may insist on it.

My Dear Sir

I am concerned you will excuse the trouble I now give you, as you well know, that I have not so good a Communication with my Friend Saunders as through you.

Tell Him, if you please, that three of his Friends, reading the other Night some of his papers, saw the probability of his present Embarrassment, & smiled at it, as a Thing of no Consequence, and which He had brought inconsiderately on himself, by passing too Severe a Judgment on an Action in itself perfectly innocent. his general principle is certainly good to avoid Temptation, & even the appearance of being tempted; but when ordinary presents [illegible] a great value in themselves, but deriving their worth from the persons who make them, No Danger can arise from an Acceptance thereof & indeed a Refusal might be productive of Mischief, as the avoiding an intended Civility, is a real Affront. There are things, the Possession of which is not much prized, but the want of it affects greatly the Credit & Character of those, who ought to have them. Chastity in Woman is One, and I believe the order of St Lewis in the Military Line of France is Another. the present made to my Friend considered in that light is Necessary to Him, it is essential to every One in his Situation, & may be of particular Service in his peculiar Circumstances. it will serve much to defeat the Malice of his Enemies, it will be a proof that He is not so much distrusted, as has been pretended & is a certain Evidence, that his Friendship or his Opposition are not considered of such little Consequ as has been given out. when Pains are taken to conciliate his Esteem, the Conduct which He should pursue, in my Opinion, [illegible] such Overtures is to make adequate returns & to go even somewhat more than half way in acknowledgements of respect & civility. his backwardness hitherto requires it. in all breakings of Friendship of those, whose Interest it is to be well together, when ever an opening is given by one side, the other cannot, I think, be too eager to manifest Spirit of Peace & Cordiallity. this is a means of shewing, that the former Coldness is not imputable to his natural disposition, but that He had been forced to take the part, He did. if for this purpose Letters were written acknowledging with great respect his sense of the Unexpected Honour Voluntary done

it might serve [illegible] to get that Testimony, which [illegible] to have in [illegible] however that this ought to be done in a too pressing a manner, the design would be too Obvious, & might revolt the minds of his Correspondents. another Letter ought perhaps to be written to the Gentleman three Miles out of Town, telling Him what had passed, & desiring to know whether He approved of his Conduct on the Occasion. the Use of this is I suppose clear, there cannot I think be any Harm in it, & some good may result. pray explain these Matters [illegible] Saunders, & Advise my Friend in the best Manner, you are Able.

With respect to you I shall be glad to know when you think of leaving France & in what Manner. Let us settle a Correspondence, for I shall be Happy to have it in my Power to serve your Private & the public Interest.

[illegible] I hope you would recommend me

most particularly to Mr A on his Arrival [illegible] purposes
[illegible] on his Address, and so I shall make the Offer to him by Letter
— I ought not to be treated so fooly by the Friends of my Country. The
Extract from the Institutions Politiques has been sent to be
inserted in some of the public papers of the neighbouring Countr
I write go by the next post to the leading Man at Amsterdam, in
some Observations on the means of vindicating the Honor & mainta
the Interests of Holland at this Juncture. the Outlines of the
Letter was read to Friends now with you. 'tis written in
bad French, but with a good Disposition, with the same design in
& plain English. I subscribe myself

Dear Sir

Brussels
Jany 27 1780.

Your most faithful Friend
& Obt Hble Servt

Bordeaux 29th Jan 1780

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir

Mr Adams left Bayonne the 25th he is not yet arrived here he travels very Leisurely making short Stages. They inform me Le Ray de Chaumont is not to be seen, that the House of Girardot are against him. Mr Izard may obtain from Haller full information of all the different windings and turnings he is engaged in and unravel if Mr Haller will be open all the chain of his conections. I have letters from your Brother from Bruxelles he thinks it is just you would give me an acknowledgement before you leave France of the Debt due me by the State of Virginia

we have no arrivals we cannot remain long in this suspended State. with respect I am

Sir
your very hble Serv
Jno Bondfield

The Committee appointed to receive the communications of the Minister Plenipotentiary of France report that in their several conferences with him he communicated to them

That the most Christian Majesty being uninformed of the appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary to treat of an alliance between the United States & his Catholic Majesty signified to his Minister Plenipotentiary to these United States that he wishes most earnestly for such an alliance and in order to make the way thereto more easy commanded him to communicate to Congreſs certain Articles which his Catholic Majesty deems of great importance to the Interests of his Crown & on which it is highly neceſsary that these United States explain themselves with preciſion & with such moderation as may consist ~~with~~ with their eſsential Interests

That the Articles are

A precise & invariable Western boundary to the United States.

The exclusive Navigation of the River Miſsiſsipi.

The poſseſsion of the Floridas.

4 The Lands on the left or eastern side of the Miſsiſsipi.

That on the first article it is the Idea of the Cabinet of Madrid that the United States extend to the Westward no farther than settlements were permitted by the royal proclamation bearing date the day of 1763.

On the second that the United

States do not consider themselves as having any right to Navigate the River Mississippi, no Territory belonging to them being situated thereon.

On the third, that it is probable the King of Spain will conquer the Floridas during the course of the present War, and in such event every cause of dispute relative thereto between Spain and these United States ought to be removed.

On the fourth that the Lands lying on the east side of the Mississippi whereon the settlements were prohibited by the aforesaid proclamation are possessions of the Crown of Great Britain & proper objects against which the Arms of Spain may be employed for the purpose of making a permanent conquest for the Spanish Crown. That such conquest may probably be made during the present War. That therefore it would be adviseable to restrain the Southern States from making any settlements or conquest in those Territories. That the Council of M.d consider the United States as having no claim to those Territories either as not having had possession of them before the present War or not having any foundation for a Claim in the Right of the Sovereign of Great Britain whose dominion they have abjured.

That his most Christian Majesty

ited to the Catholic King by Blood and
the strictest Alliance & united with these
ates in Treaties of Alliance & feeling towards
them Dispositions of the most perfect friendship
exceedingly desirous conciliating between
his Catholic Majesty & these United States the
most happy and lasting friendship.

That the United States may repose
the utmost confidence in his good will
to their Interests, & in the justice & liberality
of his Catholic Majesty - And - That he cannot
deem the Revolution which has set up
the Independence of these United States as
past all danger of unfavorable events until
his Catholic Majesty & the said States shall
be established on the Terms of Confidence
and amity, which are the objects of his
most Christian Majesty's very earnest
wishes.

Arthur Lee.

Feby 5th 1780.— Count de Vergennes writes to M. de la Luzerne french minister in America as follows.— "I have been informed, that Arthur Lee has caused it to be reported in America, that I had written to Mr Gerard & Mr Holker directing them not to meddle in what concerned him, and that the indignation of the king would be the punishment of a violation of this order. It is the more neceſsary to disavow this imposture as it was intended to destroy the reputation of M. Gerard, and attribute to Lee a confidence on my part, which has been a long time ~~withholden~~ destroyed. You may therefore declare to the president of Congreſs that such a letter has never existed. So far from retracting what I have formerly written to M. Gerard, respecting my want of confidence in Mr Lee, I have on the contrary confirmed it by acquainting him with the cause of my distrust. I have repeated the same thing to Dr Franklin, and desired him to inform Congreſs, & I doubt not that this minister will have acquitted himself of this duty with exactitude. It is poſsible that Mr Lee, as a new imposition, has made a parade of the present which he received from the king; but if this be the case, you may state with sincerity, that this present was given to him only because he signed the treaties of commerce and alliance, and not with the intention of indicating to that commiſsioner any particular mark of the king's approbation of his conduct." —

(No 332) Feby 6 - '80

Hond. Sir

I cou'd not answer sooner your last favour. It ha's been observ'd, upon the representations I made on your behalf, that when either Mr. adams or Mr. Deane took leave it was not mention'd in the gazette, and consequently it was not possible that your taking leave shou'd be publish'd by that paper.

I'll be extremely happy if you do me the honour you flatter'd me with, before you leave this country

I am with due respect

Hond. Sir

Your most humble and obedient Servant Genet

Vlles. Feby. 6. 80

(No 332)

Genet to A. Lee
Feb. 6th 1780

On my congé
not being in the
French Gazette

M. Arthur Lee ci devant depé
des Etats unis, rue neuve des
bons Enfants — a Paris

Dear Sir, Chantilly Feby 7th 1780

Ansd

I am much obliged to you for your favor of January the 2d. with its inclosures which came to hand two days ago, kept back I suppose by the frost. The Bearer who is Under Sheriff of our county, will receive and bring me the Registers you are pleased to mention. A variety of preventions have concurred to delay my trip to Williamsburg, but I yet hope to have the pleasure of seeing you when the gout and weather will permit. I thank you Sir for your hint concerning Richmond, it will confirm a preconceived design I had of writing in time to secure lodging, as I do intend to go into the next Assembly. I hope the southern news is true, for such is the pride and obstinacy of our enemies that nothing but sound drubbing seems likely to bring them to reason. I have a letter from Dr. Lee dated 28 Sept. "The combined fleets of France & Spain will soon go out again, & as M. D'Orvilliers is dismissed from the command for M. Duchaffault, a more fighting Admiral is in his place, it is expected we shall have a better account of the English fleet this

cruise

cruise. than the former by this I should conjecture that the combined fleets had returned to port without coming to action with the enemy & by extracts from the english papers, it would appear that Sr. Charles Hardy is vindicating himself to the nation for flying from the combined fleets, by pleading his orders — for the British fleet and the Allies did not pursue them with apparent vigor. My brother says, that he stands pledged for 300,000 livres for the State of Virginia, he is in doubt whether he will be permitted to come away till that is paid. I hope &c. that the business will not be suffered to add to the other persecutions of that ill-used gentleman.

I am, with much esteem and regard, dear Sir your friend & servant

Richard Henry Lee

Bordeaux 13 feb 1780

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir

The last post brought us advice of the arrival at Cadiz of Mr Jay Mr Gerard & other Gentlemen Paſsengers on board the Frigate l'Aurore from Martinico where they left the Confederacy having suffered considerable at Sea

are you in correspondence with Mr Jay I have but a very slight acquaintance with him should you write him if you find convenient to mark my residence here of wth as president of Congreſs he undoubtedly knows it may be to me of use I shall ever steddy to cultivate a Correspondence with the representatives of the States which in my Commercial line may be at times useful and that reciprocally dont leave France without

without bidding me adieu wherever you reside I shall ever esteem myself honored to hear from you and at all time to give you proffs that I am with invariable Attachment

Sir

your very hble & devoted
Servt
John Bondfield

My respectful Compliments s.v.p. to Mr Izard

14 Feb. 80

Dear Sir   Outside cover directed by AG

All being alike recd at this unhealthy City I came in for a Another Share of Sickness tho perhaps my fatiguing Jaunt contributed not a little to it, am now much better than able to make a due Apology for not replying soon to your friendly favr of 17 Decr I fully agree with you that Holding out to ye last may still enable us to save our Country, but Really they are so industrious in their Villany that they almost stagger my perseverance, Quaere Superb & buying of Ship Indian here built by Mr Boux, she is ye compleatest Ship Ever seen for America's use, I wrote to Mr Chaumont reminded him of his offer to sell her to me for £ [illegible] in Octr last & wrote at same time to Mr Franklin but never recd any Reply, on arrival here I got Mr De Neufville to whom Chaumt Recomd me to write him, ask his Price & to give Orders abt my perusing ye Inventory, & offered him £ 300,000 as she had been Neglected then allready wanted heavy Repairs his Answer was, she was worth her first cost & that ye could decline my offer at such cost he would become ye Mediator or Broker but could get no View of ye Inventory, I got Mr De Neufville to again write him to say what that cost was & to quote ye lowest price also to furnish me with an Inventory & a permission to examine

Surmount every apparent difficulty & by much prefer ~~bu~~ying those Ships than by sending Stores out, as they may be got out in all June next, you know what you told ye Indian for that price with ye Interest I would chearfully pay, or else they leave ye price to be fixed here by four persons to be chosen by them & me, as to ye One that is not launched I would compleat ye Contract made with ye builder & fit her out to our Method, or buy her also on a Valuation as above I know your Attachmt to your Country thus will only say you will serve it not a little in doing what you think needfull in this Affair & by favouring me with your Reply as soon as possible, if it is necessary Capt Joyner & Smith soon be with you & £ 500000 ye purchd can be paid directly if they will favour us with a Credit for ye Cost on ye States Security it will be agreeable, if not I must see & procure it here as an Attorney Office or Something, but if cannot manage both ye Ships, my present funds will do to Compleatly fit out ye Indian or ye One on ye Stocks, I prefer ye One not launched for many Reasons tho I believe they will sell ye Indian much ye Cheapest. Affairs Politicks has Altered much here since Mr F. left this & very much in our favr no doubt you know ye States of Hd have agreed to ye Unlimited Treaty that ye Prc has said he will do much to get said Resolution passed in ye her Materials, wherewith she could not supply. by this I have lost no time as if She prevented my doing any thing here & I wanted to procure my Dear friend permission to invest the Monies here & to collect that with my other credits here, that is now done & in 10 days time shall be ready to begin to make my purchases, as I have every indulgence of State & can Insure every Article I send to America Islands in a Neutral Bottom but as Mr Adams seems to be come to Europe on very Special business I have thought it a proper Opportunity to apply to him to see if he cannot purchd. the Indian & the other Ship as if for Congress without mentioning my Name in it & he may Allways say he gave me the Command of them. I have wrote him very fully this Post, Inclosed to a friend with desire to deliver it to him on his Arrival. I therein took the Liberty of saying that you & Mr Grand would Chearfully Aid him in this business, I advised him to Apply direct to Mr de Sartine Mr de Vergennes & Mr de Maurepas & not to take any Notice of Mr Chaumont, once will you therefore Oblige me in seeing him, & knowing his Sentiments & giving your Opinion, & if he will not act in it will you let me know if it is agreeable to you to join Mr Grand in the application & if you find he will not I have quoted Mr Grand the terms I would take them on, I mention to you as I am a Dutchman I can have many priviledges that a Stranger could not procure, have allready applied & see no Objection to fitting them as Dutch Ships & getting them to Sea, they shall have every Aid, If I am Cautious, thus if they are to be bot. I would try

States Genl intend meet ye 25 Inst^t you also have heard that Eng^d has done ye Stipulated Summons here & Presented to them ye Treaty, but I do not see they are inclined to Acquiesce, to ye Reverse I think they seem to incline perhaps a Middle path may be found to please or Satisfy all parties, I am in a fair Channel to know much hereon & will timely impart it to you

I agree totally in your Opinion ab^t Mr Rawlie & his Present Services as very Considerable Compens^n he must carry in Georgia

I congratulate you on your Relief from a State of Anxiety because your Utmost exertions could avail little whilst instead of Support, you met with concealed Opposition from those whose Duty it was to be friend to their Country, Thus as you could have no Peace, had you been joined to any Other or had you been Separate, well do I know Am^d could have been Offer^d Aid the women compelled to seek

Should you wish to Return home & you Approve of ye Method I take to attempt getting there, be assured it will give me infinite Satisfaction If you agree to go in ye Same Ship with me, should I find ye Indien, that will be a Good Opp^ty, if not, I must go as Passenger per 1st Vessel as soon as possible, as I am of your Opinion ye Stores are much wanted — I presume nothing is to be done at Bilboa, I am Sending Good Ships properly Built are to be Sold in France & pretty Reasonable but as the Gov^t wants Seamen I dare not

furnd. them, besides I dread more Oppositions & difficulties
there than here, thus must accomplish as much of my business
here as I can. I shall continue to learn every thing of particular
& communicate to you that which may seem worthy your attention
I send thereunder same cover, a Draft & you'll oblige me to write
me acceptance [illegible] above a Draft, or your leave to apprize me of ye receipt
of this will oblige me, also I shall send you a Copy by another
Chance. Captn. Joyner craves your Accept. of his best wishes for
your welfare, accept of mine also, assuring yourself that I
am with all due respect

Sir Your most Obed.t & most
Hble Servt.

Amsterdam 14 Feb.y 1780

His Excellency Arthur Lee Esqr. Paris

My D.r B.r (N.o 336) Bruxelles 15 Feb.y 1780

A few daies ago, only, I rec.d y.r favor dated 1.st last Aug.t from Chantilly which is all that I have rec.d from you since June 1778, & not one from Loudoun since 1777.

This letter came to me from Bilboa & I suppose was brot by M.r John Adams, who arriv'd in the Sensible French Frigate at Corunna two months ago from Boston; this Gent.n was not got to Paris the 9.th inst., tho he arrived at Bourdeaux some time last month. The letters you refer me to, written from Phil.a, have never come to my hands & I can't help supposing that most, if not all my letters for near two years past, both to Congress & yourself have been somehow or other intercepted or kept back, as well as your letters to me. Your Letter cover'd Ellis's Acc.t Curr.t from Mar. to 26. June 1779 Bal. in my favor £4126. 11.s; [illegible] you say £3408.16. has been paid to our B.r F. L. L. for one. This is the only acc.t I have rec.d relative to the Estate since that you sent me from W.ms b.g in Jan. 1778. I fear from a resol.n of Cong. in July last Publish'd in the Gazettes, that the interest on the few Dollars lent before Mar. 1778 will no longer be paid in bills on Paris; If it sh.d be paid in bills, tho' the am.t is small, it will be of great service at this time when the possible means of giv.g bread to my Family is not clear to me for more than a short time & it is almost impossible to transport them now to Am.a, where I mean to transport myself, as soon as I can find a practicable opportunity, unless some proper employment sh.d occur in Europe, of which I see no prospect at Present. Whatever you determine ab.t y.e Estate, whether to sell or not, I hope will turn out for the best; I see no political

Political objections with respect to me personally, because the inclosed gazette will shew you that I have made myself more free, than it was in the power of Congress to make me, therefore the only consideration is, which will be the most advantageous, on which I cannot determine, being utterly unacquainted with the actual present situation & future prospect of things with you. Copies of the inclosed paper I dare say will not easily find ~~its~~ their way to Am.a thro' France, as the understrappers of Deane's faction will wish to keep as long as they can, the only popular subject of mak.g me ungracious to my Countrymen.

You remember that Gov.r Henry & the Council of Virg.a in 1777, appointed me Agent for the State of Virg.a I have not rec.d any letters from him or any body else ab.t this business since May 1778, tho' I have written frequently & so has my B.r from Paris; he has requested of you & so have I, which I do again, to endeavor that remittances be made speedily to answer the engagements we have made in France on acc.t of the State; a full state of which has been repeatedly sent to the Governor. This seems now more necessary than ever for I have just rec.d a letter from one of the first Merch.ts in France of which the follow.g is an Extract; "Feb. 18.
"1780 — Sundry People of Nantes wrote me that Mr. Penet, formerly
"a West India Ships Surgeon had written that he was appointed
"Agent for the State of Virginia likewise superintendent of the
"whole Commerce of that State in France. I have found that choice
"very surprising." —— Perhaps others are as much surprised as this Gentleman, however these days are big with Wonders.

Last year Col. G. Mason drew a bill on me in favor of this same Mr. Penet & sent with it a very threatening & abusive Letter — The bill was not accepted for which reason it was protested, since which I have not heard of it; to put an end to such a correspondence with that Gentleman I must request that you intreat my B.r F. L. Lee
to

N.B. The house of Lee & Jett might get comm.ns fm Bostonge for purchas.g Tob.o which have been in y.e hands of y. —

(to whom I do not write now) to fix on some Agent for me, to go to Col. Mason & tender him money of the Country equal to his Sterling demand, according to the Legal establishment with you. This I mean to be a legal tender, on the supposition that it has not been made before. If this tender has been made, or is made in consequence of this letter, & it is refused I beg to have repeated Copies, of an attestation on Oath before a Magistrate, of such tender & refusal to accept it, by the person mak'g ye. tender. You will readily acknowlege the necessity of my being furnish'd with this document, as Col. Mason threatens to have his claim attested under the State Seal & to send it over to have a Suit commenced agt. me in Europe. Your Son will tell you how few Merchts. there are in France that will now venture a Shilling in the trade to Ama. unless it is those that have the direction of the publick funds who may go on a sure foundation, for what gets safe may [illegible]rivate property, what is lost may be the Publics. Every one is [illegible]dy enough to receive consignments fm. Ama., but few choose to venture on their own risk. In the other parts of Europe the general determination seems to be, to wait until the War is ended; as the custom is almost every where, Except in Engd. or Amstm., to deal for ready money, or 3. Mos. trust after your credit is establish'd, you will easily see the difficulty of a Stranger without money doing business in this part of the World. I have on various occasions recommended the house of R. H. Lee & Thos. Jett, from which I know some correspondencies have been open'd with that house, but many of the ventures have been unfortunate. If Thom. cou'd make it worth his while to fix at St. Eustatia I cou'd possibly be of some service to him. I hope you will be more fortunate with yr. Cassius than I have been with my Brutus, who is gone to a better climate than this, but Mrs. L. in a very little time intends to replace him. My whole Tribe join me in Affect. Love to you & yours & to Loudon & his good Rib — God Bless you — Farewell W. L.

N.B. The house of Lee & Jett might get comns. fm. Boston &c. for purchas'g Tobo., which have been in ye. hands of ye. Hunters at Fredericksbg.]

Wm Lee to R.H.L
Feb. 15th 1780
(~~No 237~~)
(No 336)

1780

~~No 64.~~
No 237.

Nantes
~~Bordeaux~~ 17 february 1780

Honble Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir

I have the happiness to advise you of the safe arrival of our Ships the Governor Livingston & Mary Pearson ~~having~~ ~~[illegible]~~ the greatest part of their cargoes are on freight from the States of Virginia consigned to Messrs Dacosta freres, it appears the State of Virginia have form'd some new convention with the House of Dacosta otherways these tobacco would have come to your Brother and consequently the Funds at your disposal as now situated you have no concern with them. I apprehend Penet has made offers to the Council in which case they must have provided for the Debts you have form'd for them to be settled by the House of Dacosta if not you will find yourselves engaged without any prospect of discharging [illegible] as they have begun by transmitting the remittance to that House who will allways keep the State in Debt to them by feeding their craving wants of Starved Supplies we have some regret to see go thro our hands to indifferently persons Funds we ought to receive in freights are generaly regarded priviledged Debts. Mr Hayward being taken on the Passage by the Alliance who they suspected an English Frigate threw his Letters & papers overboard. I shall returnd to Bordeaux in few Days the Tobacco will not be delivered before I may receive your Letter pray write me if any step can be taken to ~~force~~ oblige the French the proceeds of the Tobacco into your hands if not I am affraid you will be long without receiving. There was a report of the English intending to pay a Visit to Virginia General Washington had ~~[illegible]~~ detached the Southern Troops four thousand were at the head of Elk. with respect I have the Honor to be

Sir

your very hble Servt

John Bondfield

My Dear Sir

Immediately on the Receipt of yours, I wrote to my Intelligent Correspondent, He answered me Yesterday that the Expedition from Ireland is supposed to be for the West Indies. but that Walsingham's Ships are not yet ready. — He tells me too that Russia is to be bribed by a great part of the Money gained from the East India Company, ~~& that to~~ enter into a Treaty defensive & offensive, that Advances are made therein & that indeed it is nearly Concluded, but that she will first endeavour to bring about a Peace. You perhaps know more of these Matters, than I do.

As you ~~did~~ have not given me Mr Adams address I trouble you to present Him the inclosed. — give me timely Notice of your departure — I received yesterday an Court Calendar ~~which I will~~ from our good Friend for you I will send it by the first Opportunity. — How do you find things?

I am
Dear Sir
Yours Most Sincerely
Donald MacDonald

Brussels
Feby. [illegible] 80.

(No. 333)

Paſsy, Feb 24th 1780.

Sir,

I request you would ſend me by the Bearer, my Grandſon, the original Treaty of Alliance which I have a present Occaſion to ſee. And if in aſsorting your Papers you have ſeparated ſuch belonging to the Publick as may be useful here, and are not neceſsary to you, I request you would ſend them alſo, either now or before you leave Paris. I have the Honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedt & most
humble Servant

B Franklin

Hon. Ar. Lee Esq}

(No 338)

B. Franklin to A. Lee
Feb. 24th 1780

Dr Franklin's Letter
Feby 24. 1780

72.

Copy From Edmund Jenings Esqr. to
Charles Carrol Esqr. of Carrolton Maryland.

My dear Sir,

I have received your very kind favor of the 21st Sepr. convey'd to me by the care of my friend Mr. Ridley, but that which you inform me you wrote three weeks before, has not come to hand. I am much oblig'd to you for the attention you paid to those Books I took the liberty of sending to you, but my dear friend let me beg you to read them over again, & I trust you will then feel the necessity of banishing as far as possible those banes of public & private virtue, Avarice & Ambition, this is the object of all that the Abbé Mably has said He is too wise a man to think it possible, or even to wish to introduce the particular Institutions of antient States, as applicable or receivable in the systems of the present world But altho he would not adopt the latter he is desirous of introducing the principles of Legislators who succeeded in their plans, as far as the wisdom of men could succeed in their's or at any other time. Tell me not my dear friend, that if his only object was to shew the mischief of Avarice & Ambition, that he has taken up a great deal of time to prove what every Body has been long convinced of. I wish they were so, but I have Books most plausibly written, & general Education I know is very serves to recommend the one & justify the other. They teach men, & the instruction has been but too well attended to, to pursue the petty Passions cost what it may to the public happiness, & to heap up riches the luxurious expenditure of which necessarily corrupts public virtue. If I should trace the present unjust system of G. Britain, I should prove that these vile passions are at the bottom of it, & perhaps should you reflect, & I know you do it with much concern, on the present temper of our Country you would see the disorders that have arisen ~~greatly~~ owing to their predominancy.

I could write a volume, & perhaps shall on ~~some~~ future opportunity trouble you at least with a long letter, to explain fully my ideas on this matter. But I must now pursue what I had in view in addressing myself to you at this time. It was, Sir, to recommend to your particular confidence, & friendship, the Honble Arthur Lee Esqr the Gentleman who will present this to you, of whose knowledge of the affairs & attachment to the interests of our Country, you are well convinced. I know not any one who can give you better information of the State of Europe at this juncture, & who will do it with more sincerity, for no one can wish nor has endeavored more to promote the public happiness & liberty. I should have ventured to have entered into the detail myself, if I were not well assured he is able & willing to give you the utmost insight into things on this side the water; for he has had the best opportunities of knowing, & has the best abilities to judge of public transactions. I am convinced you will attend to him for his & for your own sake, & what is more, I will venture to say to you, as I would to him, for the sake of our Country.

Feby 28th 1786 I am dear Sir,
most faithfully &c

(No 334) Feby 29 - '80

Monsieur

J'ai pris des informations sur ce qui a empeché qu'il ne fût mention dans la gazette de votre présentation au Roi en prenant congé. On ne l'auroit point fait pr. M.rs Deane et Adams, vû qu'ils n'étoient que Commissaires, et eussent ils été ministres plenipotentiaires, cela ne se seroit pas fait non plus, parceque ce n'est point l'usage même pour les ministres plenipotentiaires, si ce n'est ceux du Roi en païs étranger, à leur retour ou à leur départ. Je vous renouvelle, Monsieur mes sinceres hommages et j'ai l'honneur d'être avec un inviolable attachement

Votre très humble et très obéissant serviteur

Genet

a Versailles ce 29 fev 1780

Mr. Arthur Lee [illegible] rue des bons Enfans
a Paris

Not interesting

Paul Jones & the Ranger —

1778

(No 334)

Genet to A. Lee
Feb. 29th -80

Versailles 1er mars 1780

Je vous souhaite, Monsieur, un bon
voyage. J'ai été très sensible à vos
attentions obligeantes [illegible]
mes remerciements.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement,
Monsieur, votre très humble et très
obéissant serviteur,

Mr. Artur Lee.

Sir

Amsterdam 2d. March 1780.

I am under many great obligations to our mostworthy friend Mr. Lingle, for his having recommended me so strongly as a friend to my mother country; and in particular by finding my self honoured with your kind favour of 23d feb, advising me the resolution you have taken of setting out for America, where you [illegible] wish of being informed of the news that may [illegible] Europe during your absence; you may depend upon it Sir. tho not having had the pleasure of making your personal acquaintance, so as the above mentioned, gave me hopes to expect, that no opportunity shall whenever may appear worth your attention, without informing you by a letter in each desp of it, so cement by that means our new acquaintance, with the hopes of being once lucky enough to answer you worthily my upright esteem & how great a satisfaction it shall always be for me to find often opportunitys, of serving you & America; I therefore beg that you or any of your friends will on all times & occasions freely dispose of me.

Mr. Lingle has been very unfortunate since he left us, after having been upwards of 3 Weeks at Sea, his Vessel springing a leak, forced them to gain Plymouth, where finding her in so bad a condition, obliged him to take another one in [illegible] Vessel that was luckily in the same port, for Bourdeaux, where I imagine he is not far off at present.

My Uncle Chabanel having followed the American trade my Aunt who is well acquainted with it, intends continuing her deceased husband's affairs, under the firm of Wide Chabanel & Co., my being at her Countinghouse, fully persuades me of the just manner which she fulfils the Commissions her friends honour her with and your very polite manner of writing me, makes me so free, as to demand your protection in her favour by recommending her house to your friends, as you pass through the different States, I am persuaded you will render her a great service by doing it, for wch I shall always remain you thankful, & reckon it a particular one shown to me.

Our States General assembling to morrow; the Troubles [illegible] [illegible] affords us Nothing new for the present I shall therefore end this by communicating you my Aunt's upright wishes, joined to mine for your safe & quick arrival, wch we sincerely hope may then be attended with all imaginable success in your undertakings, and believe me always to be with much Esteem

Sir

Your most Obt. hble Servant
Herman le Roy Jr

Arthur Lee Esq. a Paris.

P.S. just this moment the news is come to
Town of Admiral Bylands arrival at
the Texel, from Portsmouth

Nantes 3 may 1780

Sir

Since mine of the 1 Curt. there are no arrivals from the Southward a ship from Boston bound for Amsterdam put into this River two days past they left Plymouth in ~~[illegible]~~ New England 7 Inst. they give an account of two Privateers intercepting ~~the~~ a convoy seven provision Ships and a Sloop of war and carrying them all into Boston. Doct.r Bancroft arrived here yesterday his errand is not yet publick but I suppose it is to procure his passage to America his hopes of the Secretaryship by the arrival of M.r Laurens being vanished. I have a letter from M.r W Lee 29. Ult. times will soon change they cannot remain in their present State I have the Honor to be

Sir

your most Obed.t Humble Serv.t

John Bondfield

Le Bon de Breteuil a eu l'honneur de passer chez Monsieur Lee pour lui faire mille adieux bien sincères et tristes. La lettre ci jointe pour Mr le Chr de la Luzerne. Le Bon de Breteuil prie Monsieur Lee de vouloir bien s'en charger et a l'honneur de lui renouveller ses vœux pour son voyage ainsi que l'assurance de son sincère et inviolable attachement.

Ce Mardi 4 Avril 80.

The disposit'n of ye Court continues favourable – the Supplies in ye Invoice sent me too great to be now furnish'd 3 Millions of Livres were granted me after deduct'g interest bills & other drafts, I could not venture on ordering more than 10,000 Suits of Clothes. Dr. Franklin to Congress
March 4th 1780

the Alliance to carry some of the Powder Lead & as much of the Arms & Clothing as she, together with a frigate, the Ariel, which we have borrowed, can take
Dr. Franklin to Congress. May 31. 1780

(No 391) George Town So Carolina
10. March 1780.

My Dear Sir

I mean to pay my present respects to you by the hands of the Honble. Thos. Bee Esqr. our Lt. Governor who has accepted of an appointment by his Country to Congress, where, if an honest disinterested sensible Man can be useful, America will profit by his presence — this Gentleman has been from early life in publick service always on the side of his Country, is a Man of business & fit for business. I have invited him with Mrs. Bee & the Lady's Sister Miss Smith to wash their feet & eat Bread one night at Chantilly & am confident that neither Mrs. Lee nor you will regret ~~the~~ presumption, this is saying enough to display my Ideas.

Mr. Bee will inform you fully of the state of affairs in this quarter & how exceedingly mortified I am by the many disappointments I have experienced of embarking earlier for Europe than the 10th March 1780. a prospect now presents of beginning my Voyage in five or six days from this Port, — but how? in an unarmed Pilot Boat for the West Indies, in view of horrid expences without Money or Credit (Crebbit) & without certain essential documents for which I had waited not less than 44 days in Philadelphia near the Center of gravity. I have known an instance, of steady faithful attention to public duty, being a good foundation for calumny & abuse, this may not happen again in the present Century can I believe that within 20 Years there will be collected such another groupe of Judges as you & I have known? be this as it may, unjust censure will not affect me half so much as I am hurt now by the effects of mere casualty on one side & neglect of business on ~~the~~ ye other, where I myself am in no respect blameable — hurt because it has not been in my power to attempt my duty with that celerity which I wished for, although I may still serve my Country as effectually as if I had been in France three Months ago. for when I come there,

un-

unleſs the documents alluded to shall meet me I shall exhibit an awkward Figure.

Mr. Bee has read the Narrative, vindication & many relative Papers & has often conversed with Mr. Lloyd, hence I presume he is qualified for making further investigations in a buſineſs of great public importance, the further he proceeds the more will he be confirmed in his present sentiments & I wish him to be fully informed of the most minute pro & Con before he gives a definitive sentence. he has too long sat in the seat of judgement to be suspected of doing this till the proper moment.

Accept Dear Sir my best wishes for yourself Mrs. Lee & the young family, tell Mr. Parker ~~that~~ the Colonel & his two Brothers were well in Charles Town seven days since they have excellent Barracks in the House of a late Custom House Officer which I trust they will defend against the attempts of his Master.

I must now retire & weep for the distreſses of my Country although there are grounds for believing it will succeſsfully resist the present formidable effort of the Enemy. it is nevertheleſs in deplorable circumstances — Women & Children scattered & wandering, a sickly season approaching disaffected Brethren committing Murders & every violence Negroes absconding, the Enemy arming them, Commerce arrested, agriculture greatly interrupted, a scene which melts such a heart as mine, but soft as it is & ready to give up the fragment of an Estate for the benefit of my suffering Fellow Citizens I find it too stubborn to admit

even

even a suggestion of submitting to any terms dictated by our persecutors. should they make an impression upon Charles Town the conquest will cost them much blood & may work their ruin. & yonder are the Mountains – but where are our Virginian friends? will they not hasten their steps to the relief of a Virgin Sister – 18 Months have some of them been creeping 400 Miles come they within a Week & I think we shall be safe.

Once more I pray God to keep you & I beg you will be assured I continue with very sincere Esteem & affection

Dear Sir
Your obedient & most
humble Servant

Henry Laurens.

The Honble
R. H. Lee Esquire
Virginia.

arc.

(No 391) (~~No 204~~)

Letter

Henry Laurens
To
The Honble R. H. Lee Esqr

N.o ~~[illegible]~~ – 204

199

Paris Hotel de Valois Rüe de Richelieu. March 15th 1780

My dear Sir,

After my last Embarkation for Europe, your Letter of October the eighth was brought me on Board the French Frigate the Sensible, juſt upon the point of sailing, ſo that I had no Opportunity to anſwer it in America, and ſince my arrival in Europe, I have gone through a Land Journey, from Ferrol in Spain to Paris little ſhort of four hundred Leagues, in the dead of Winter, in ſuch Roads and ſuch Accommodations, as almost wore me out. I have ſcarcely recruited myſelf enough to recollect what I had to do.

I thank you, Sir, for your kind Congratulations on my Return to my Family and Country, both which I had the inexpreſſible Pleaſure to find in perfect Health.

My Countrymen are ſo nice and ſo difficult to please, in the Choice of a Constitution of Government, that I cannot ſay how long it will be, before they will adopt one, but of this I am very certain, that they have one at present which is very tolerable, and that the Temper and Genius of that People will not endure a bad one.

You recommend to me to continue in public Life, but You practice the Reverſe yourſelf. How is this? are not the ſame obligations upon You that You think lie upon me?

You and I have had Experience enough of public Life, to be very well convinced, that there are great Trials of our Patience, very little pleasure, and no Satisfaction at all to be found in it. I was never very fond of public Life, myſelf, but on the contrary, I avoided it with the utmost Care for many Years. But stepping into the midst of civil Diſsentions, when I first entered on the Stage of Life, it was impoſsible for me to avoid having an Opinion of my own, and Principles like those of the Majority of my Countrymen. these Principles I frankly profeſsed at all Times and in all Circumstances however critical and dangerous, which involved me in an unavoidable Neceſsity, when the Times grew more tempestuous, to step on board the Ship and take my Fortune with the Crew. It is and will ever be the ſweetest Reflection

of

1780 March 15

of my Life, that I did so. But I have ever been thence thoroughly sensible of the Instability, of a public Career, and have ever endeavoured to preserve my Mind prepared to return to my Books and Forests, with Tranquillity, which I am perfectly sure at present, that I can do, and with pleasure too. Yet I assure you I begin to fear that Habits will steal upon me, by length of Time, which I shall find it hard to break, when the Time shall come that I must retire. This Time will certainly arrive with the first Moment that I cannot serve the public with Honor and some prospect of Advantage and I have many Reasons to suspect, that the Time is not very distant.

The Chevalier de la Luzerne, I have Reason to think, from an agreeable Acquaintance with him in the Course of a Passage to America of forty seven days, from some Knowledge of him that I had before and after, is a candid and impartial Man, possessed of no Principles or Views inconsistent with his public Character, and very able to do service to his Country and ours - the same of Mr Marbois - I lament most sincerely the unhappy Contests that preceded his arrival and wish that they may be extinguished; but I know too well the Circumstances to expect that they will.

As to my Negotiations, our Sons or Grandsons have a better Chance of compleating them, than I have. There is, or at least there was a System of Policy and of military Operations, that if it had been pursued, might have given me something to do. It is not my fault, nor the fault of America that it was not.

The Fishery and the Navigation of the Mississippi, are Points of such Importance, that your Grandson, when he makes the Peace, I hope will secure them. I am sure, he will omit nothing in his Power to do, for that purpose.

You will hear before you read this, of a Series of good Fortune, which has happened to Rodney and his Fleet. But the Allies will be superior by Sea in America and the West Indies, so that We may hope, that the Tide will turn. England will remain without Allies. Denmark has done a foolish thing by restoring to the English some Prizes sent into Norway by the Alliance. She seems to be sorry that She did it. It was upon the Principle, that they had not acknowledged our Independence, and that all Powers were their Enemies, with whom they had no Treaty. a Principle long ſince exploded, and of which they are at present aſhamed. Ireland and England are following our Example: and if France and Spain act with ſufficient Vigour in America and in the West Indies, all is ours, with an ordinary Succeſs – otherwise all will be a bache. But We must perſevere. The more Succeſs Great Britain has, the more Reaſon We have to dread her, and We ought to be the more determined to hold out for ever.

I am with great Esteem,

Sir,

your Friend & humble Servant.

John Adams

Hon:^{ble} Richard Henry Lee, Chantilly

Virginia.

John Adams

John Adams

1780 March 15th

Sir [No 337] Boston March 15th: 1780

I received with great pleasure your favour of the 22d Jany. which came to hand but a few days ago. Though I have not the Honour of being known to Dr. Lee or to be ranked among his Correspondents. I have too long been acquainted with the Services he has rendered his Country, with his Sentiments & publick virtue, as well as with those of his Connections, to receive any Impressions from the Libel you mention, it has all along been the most refined policy of the Tories to adopt every measure that Envy, Malice or revenge could dictate. to destroy the reputation of the most distinguished Characters; & this policy has been aided by the folly & Groundless Jealousy of the Whigs. and perhaps never more than at this Time. when the decline of publick virtue in themselves, makes them suspect it in others against the most Incontestible Evidence, however I have been happy in finding that that publi:cation was far from Answering here the End designed by it, and that your Brothers character remains Unsullied by ~~the~~ all the Venom, & malice it Contains. The Pamphlet

you Inclosed has afforded me great pleasure
I shall make use of it. to Eradicate the few
prejudices that may remain in the Minds
of any of my acquaintance, & to Cultivate
that Gratitude that is Due to Doctr Lee from
every American. with my wishes for
your Happiness. I am with very great
Esteem Sir Your Most Obedt. Humble
Servt. J Warren

Honbl. Richd H. Lee Esqr

J. Warren (Mass)

(~~No. 440.~~) ~~Mar. 15th 1780.~~

(No 337) 2 letters

(Deanes Pamphlet

Letters and
other Papers which
regard Public busi-
ness —
1780

No. 440

Pd in S L Ltr

Dear Sir (No 338) Philada March 20th 1780

[I recd your Favor of 19th Feby inclosing a Note for Tho Peirce Clerk of our Assembly wch I delivered we hear from Carolina that the Troops to the amo of 8000 are arrived & Landed some on Johns Island some on James Island & some elsewhere a number of their Ships much shattered some 3 foundered all their Horses lost that one 64 Gun Ship & 2 or 3 smaller appear off the harbour, Sulivan says that if they delay their motions 2 or 3 Weeks he hopes to be prepared for them, that he has expected the Virginia Troops 18 Months not arrived the 24th Feby Mr Laurens was to sail for Statia the next day — the Vessel wch John Adams sailed in arrived at Corunna in 18 Days I wish I could inform you of a prospect of an honorable Peace but I guess the fluctuating State of our Finances will encourage our obstinate Foes to struggle hard to prolong the War, by the inclosed imperfect Sketch of our present System agreed yesterday youl see how unequal we are to the work the credit of our Money is so low that it is absolutely necessary to attempt something —

If I have the pleasure to see your Sons in Philada on their Way to Virginia I shall observe your directions —

I have wrote you several times by the Post & directed agreeable to your advice but I dont find you have recd any of my Letters — inclosed is a Letter from Dr Scudder, Young Madison one of your Delegates came into Congress yesterday] I cant find any good Souchong Tea but have bot you one pound very fine Hyson at a guin but how to send it I know not — best Comps to Mrs Lee & Fam

Wm Shi

The Honorable Richard Henry Lee Esqr
at Chantilly
to the care of the Post Master at Leeds Town
Westmoreland County In
Virginia

Free
Wm Shippen

~~No. 425~~

I sent you an acct of the Numbers of Lottery Tickets long ago & that your Interest on certificate is to be paid in Virginia but have not met with a safe hand by whom to send it before

{Copy entire, except last sentc}

[~~No 423~~]
[No 338]

Paris 21st March 1780

I received yesterday your Letter of 15th & in a very little time after had some conversation with Mr. G—r on the subject of it. He made no scruple to tell me privately as a friend that what is said of him in the paper you sent me is totally false, but said that it would be improper for him either to give it under his hand or to take any step by which it should appear that he had informed any person what he had written or what he had not. He advises that you should write to Count de Vergennes about it, & doubts not but that Minister would give you satisfaction on the point in question. As to Grand you know that I have nothing to say or do with him; besides a verbal denial ~~denial~~ would be of no service to you, as some folks ~~have~~ make no scruple to act, or speak according to the convenience of the moment, unless proof can be brought against them. I think it would be better for you to write to him about it, & enclose him the paper. The arrival of the Tonant with 59 Merchantmen puts every body into spirits. It certainly is a fortunate event, as they bring a great deal of valuable property, and Sailors to man three Ships of the Line. Gillon writes me in great spirits from Holland. Every thing in that part Public as well as private is going on as we could wish. In a day or two he promises to write me particulars by a private hand; as soon as I know anything worth communicating, you shall have it. Affectionately Yours R. I.

My Dr. Br.   Brussells. Mar. 21. 1780.

You have had by diff.t opp.ties copies of the inclosed; but whether Col. W. have recd. my letters of Mar. 26. May 10. & Apl. 25. which were inclosed to you or not, I can't tell, however I think it necessary again to send you the copys inclosed that you may have full information of what has passed.

I did not receive one line from you or our Br. R. H. L. by the ~~Mary~~ Mary Fearon or Governor Livingston that have been a month since arrived in France & left York River Dec. 29. last, loade[illegible] & T. L. & Co. on Acct. of the State. I am much distress'd at not hearing from you for above two years, & particularly from not knowing what has been determin'd about the Estate, whether it has been sold or not, because untill I know that, it is impossible for me to decide on any plan for my future conduct & operations; & in the mean time, by waiting too long, the little pittance I have, may be exhausted & I may be incapable of pursuing twelve months hence, what wd. be now in my power to execute. I intreat you therefore to give me this information as soon as possible & by various opportunitys, inclosed by the way of France to Mr. Jno. Bondfield Merch.t Bourdeaux, or Mr. Schweighauser Nantes; by the way of Holland inclose to Messrs. Jean De Neufville & fils, Negociants Amsterdam. Public news you will have very fully, viva voce, by the Bearer of this our Br. A. L. therefore I have only to tell you that tho' I have lost my Brutus, a few days since Mrs. L. has presented me with a plump Virgin call'd Cornelia; who, with her Mother, is in a very good way. My Love to our Sister at Belleview & tell her, she need not regret the loss of her Betsey for she is reviv'd in my Boy William; who with a Capon, is a more perfect resemblance of her, than any Limner could take.

Remember me affectionately to our Dear Sister & to all at Chantilly. Best Compliments to Mount Airey & Love me only as much as I feel for you. Farewell.

March 22. 1780

The Memorial of William Stone, Thomas Smi
and George Bunner of South Carolina

Sheweth

That on the 4th of September 1779 your memorialists were sent for by his Excellency the Governo of South Carolina (who knowing your Memorialists were well acquainted on the Coasts of South Carolina & Georgia) and desired their assistance as Pilots for his most Christian Majesties fleet then lying off Georgia, that your Memorialists embarked from Charlestown the day following & arrived in the fleet the sixth of Sepr. That your Memorialists were next morning sent for on board the Languedoc and from thence sent on board diffe[illegible] order the Count D'Estaing who Comman the fleet, That your Memorialists acted as Pilots a board their respective Ships to the best of their knowledge & understanding, that when the Siege of Savannah broke up your Memorialists were again sent on board the Languedoc there to be paid, discharged & sent to their respective homes but contrary to their wishes a Gale of Wind came on & drove our Ships from her anchors & put to Sea in consequence of which your Memorialists were carried off to France contrary to their expectation & greatly to the disadvantage of their interest, & that your Memorialists were very unprovided, for every necessity for such a long & severe passage, that on the seventh of Decr. 1779 your Memorialists

3

Treatment of Americ
in Franc

rialists arrived at Brest in the Languedoc, that having
no means of subsistance, your Memorialists made appli:
ation to the Count D'Estaing who order'd a lodging to be
vided & told your Memorialists they should be well
provided & amply rewarded for their services & mis for:
tunes, & that a passage should be provided as soon as
possible, that your Memorialists applied two defrent
times for a passage in some of his M. C. Majesties
Ships bound for America but to no purpose, that your
Memorialists were allowed three hundred Livres for
Cloathing as your Memorialists were in a manner
quite naked not having one shift of any kind of Cloath-
ing as likewise one hundred Livres pr Month for [illegible]
ch was paid up to the first day of February part of
which your Memorialists are obliged to pay their
own board & Lodging at the rate of Ninety Livres pr
month, washing excepted & at the end of the month have
not one Sol left, that your Memorialists think is but
a very poor recompense for their services & misfortunes
absence from their families & a loss of time of at least
eight or ten Months. That your Memorialists beg
your Excellency will take this our case in consideration
& use your interest in having us provided for as our ser-
vices & misfortunes requires & your Memorialists will
be ever bound in duty to pray — Brest March 22d 1780

His Excellency Arthur Lee Esq. } Sign'd { William Stone
Thomas Smith
George Bunner

Dear Sir, March 26 – 1780

Your esteemed favor of the 15th. last month, with the extracts from your much injured brother's letter to the President of Congreſs, and the copy of Doctor Berkenhout's letter to yourself, inclosed, came safe to hand. Next to the approbation of my own conscience, it has always been my wish to obtain that of the wise & good, and I confeſs I am happy in having yours. I flatter myself the time will shortly come, when the honest laborers in the cause of freedom & their country will at least meet with the reward of being known, and when also the double-dealing artful pretenders will be discovered. X

There has been a virtuous band in Congreſs from the beginning of the present contest, but they were never so few, or so much opposed as just after you and your good brother left us. In the Winter & Spring of 1779 there was a cabal, whose views I could not fathom; there were some poſseſsed of restleſs spirits, and who endeavored to set member against member, and the Congreſs against the States, particularly Pennsylvania and those of New-England, and the States agt. Congreſs. Every artifice was used to instil prejudices against all our foreign Ministers and Commiſsioners, particularly your brothers;x and I really believe, if I had not in April last gone off the Bench into Congreſs, in the face of a vote of the Aſsembly of Pennsylvania, that they would have been recalled without exception. My fears were, that at that critical

x Dr. Arthur Lee & William Lee.

period

X This paragraph relates to the intrigues & falsehoods of Dr Franklin & Silas Deane agst Mr Arthur Lee.
R.H. Lee

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period, when it had been propagated in Europe; and some uneasiness discover
on that score by the court of France; that we were listening to overtures from
Great Britain, a change of men might have implied a change of measures,
and given some countenance to the report; and for this reason I thought it
wrong to recal any Gentleman in such a conjuncture. The vote was tak
with respect to Doctor Franklin, and being determined in the negative, it
was postponed as to the rest until I was absent on the circuit. Places &c
were sought after by some, and vacancies were necessary for the purpose
obtaining them, but I could not think this was the only thing in contemp
tion; tho' I may have been mistaken, as harmony seemed to be restored in
some measure upon the appointments of Messrs. Jay and Carmichael. The
death of Mr. Drayton, and the considerable change about that time of the
members, several of them not having been re-elected, left us pretty quiet
ever since, tho' prejudices still too much prevail.

When I reflect on the assiduity, the zeal, the fidelity, the abilities and
patriotism of Doctor A. Lee, I cannot help deploring his fate, and reproba
the ingratitude of Congress; but, Sir, it is with pleasure I can assure yo
that he has many unshaken friends still remaining in that Body, who
have never seen him, and who esteem him only for his public virtues. I
profess myself one of these, and he has at least my warmest thanks for h
substantial services rendered to my country.

I cannot think it any reflection on a Gentleman's heart, that he has been
mistaken in entertaining too good an opinion of another, nor am I at all surprize
that even you should have been led into an error with respect to Doctor Berkenhou

after perusing his letter and knowing his insinuating address: but I shall say no more on this head, as I am really appologizing for myself.

The deranged state of our finances has given us infinite trouble and concern. A new plan has been adopted, which is published in the News-Papers, to which I shall refer you — if it can be carried into execution it will be a great relief to us; and I see nothing else left but for every Whig to exert himself in its support.

There is no great prospect of peace; tho' the late intelligence from Europe is otherwise favorable. I suspect, that Mr Temple (who came over in 1778 with Doctor Berkenhout) will shortly venture here again with propositions (perhaps secret) to acknowledge the Independence of the States, except South Carolina & Georgia, and that part of Massachusetts, formerly called the Province of Main, on condition of our neutrality betwen Britain & Spain — he is to have power to draw on two merchants in London of his own nomination ad libitum. This is not mere conjecture or report; but it may not be attempted to be carried into execution, as I think, upon the least reflection he must despair of success. Can they suppose that these States will be so perfidious to one another, or to the auxiliary of their Ally — that they are so corrupt — so base? Can they be taught to believe, that a virtuous people can grow so extremely wicked by a war of five years continuance? Nemo repente

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P reponte facit tuo pessimus

Philadelphia.
March 25th 1780.

I am, my dear Sir, with the most perfect esteem,
Your most obedient humble servant.

Thos M:Kean

Richard Henry Lee Esquire.

Thos McKean

copied

(No 339) L'Orient March 26th 1780

Dear Sir

I have been three weeks here & at Brest, to pass in the Alliance, & she is not likely to sail this month to come. Dr. Franklin & Mr. Chaumont have so managed things, that no settlement is made of the prize money, & the Crew cannot be prevailed upon to sail without it. By this delay, we shall miss the fleet of 6 Ships of the line & 8000 troops which are preparing with all possible expedition at Brest, & will sail in ten days. Their precise destination is secret. It will be our fate to run the gauntlet of the Enemy's Cruizers, who will cover the Seas at the season we sail; & of their fleet, which in all probability will be on this Coast before that time & I am sure by what I have seen, that of Brest will not be prepared to face it.

Things have changed so much within these few months, that it is much to be feared the Enemy will have a decided superiority at Sea this Campaign; & there is even reason to apprehend, that their Fleet will be out in time to prevent the expedition from Brest. Rodney's fleet except four with which he sailed for the W. Indies, have been some time returned not only in safety but triumph. In going they took & destroyed eight Spanish Line of Battle Ships, several Fregates & thirty sail of Merchantmen richly laden: they then re-inforced & revictualled Gibraltar, & in returning cap-

:tured

:tured a french sixty four the Prothée, & six transports, with money, troops & provisions from this place for the Isle de France. all this was done in two months time by twenty two Ships of the Line embarrassed with a large convoy in the face of forty sail at Brest & nearly as many at Cadiz & its Environs, be:fore which places they were to pass & repass, & the expedition was as notorious six weeks before it took place, as that England existed. With such good fortune to second their activity what can we expect here but discomfiture. The dismission of M. D'Orvilliers from the command of the fleets in whom & in whom only, the Marine both of Spain & France have the most entire confidence, is a great misfortune; & the appointment of Count D'Estaing will, as far as I can judge from what I see & hear, put the last seal to our ill success.

The measures pursuing with success by the Opposition in England being on a plan of fundamental, extensive, & most useful reformation, is justly alarming to us in the pre:sent contest. It is excellently calculated to restore the ge:neral confidence of the Nation to their government, to put order, economy & energy into the administration, to abo:lish a multitude of useless, but expensive & pernicious appointments, to banish corruption from the great Councils of the Nation, & make national good the chief object of national councils & exertions. Should they add to this

the

the compleat overthrow of the present Ministers & Advisers, & even their punishment, it will be so much the worse for us, as their vices, corruption, & folly are in fact our best friends. It is true that the Leaders of the Opposition are not advocates for the continuance of the war against us. But it is because in the manner in which it is conducted, they despair of success, & foresee their own ruin in the enormity ~~of the enormity~~ of the expence. But when they see their arms in general prosperous, the expence greatly retrenched, their credit & resources augmented, & the prospect of success less dubious, if the King, as the first wish of his heart will dictate, should make the pursuing of the war with us the sine qua non of their admission into place; I am persuaded they will not only acquiesce, but conduct it with more wisdom, more energy, & I greatly fear with more success than their predecessors.

This is as just an idea as my judgement can form of the present state of affairs. You will perceive how necessary it is that each State should attend to putting itself in the best possible posture of defence. To keeping its fortifications in good order, & providing Artillery, Arms, & Ammunition necessary for that purpose if the Enemy should be again in force & obtain a decided superiority over the House of Bourbon at Sea. The possibility of our being again left alone to contend for our Independancy, against the force of G. Britain, should be always in our contemplation, till a general Peace & specific aknowledgement

of

(Nº 389) 26 March 1780
~~[illegible]~~

of it has put it out of all question. I write this as a sort of Legacy to my Country, least from the strange conduct & spirit that prevails, where great age does not prevent the perpetration of great crimes; I should never reach you in person.

Should I however reach you, & arrive first at Philadelphia, I shall be very much at a loss how to act, & wish above all things to meet your advice there. Whether it woud be proper to demand of Congress a public trial or an Audience only, or appeal to the People at large upon the whole of what has passed, is difficult for me, so little acquainted with men & things with you, to determine. In my own mind I regard 50 as most culpable, 38 & 45 acted in their own defence when they plotted against me, because they invalidated my testimony by it the appearance of Enmity. But 50 who had every reason from what they knew to be justice to the public & to me, to check & punish such attempts, on whom I relied for justice, who coud not but know that it was a wicked plot & founded in falshood, to encourage such impositions & seal them at last by the transaction of the 26th Sepr. was a conduct of such unprovoked wickedness & deliberate injustice, that I can find no apology for it, & therefore should I appeal to the public it is upon them my complaint will press most. It is a base & shameful, an abominable business. So many are concernd & so unworthily, that it is difficult to think of it with patience, or treat it with temper — God forgive them — Adieu

A. Lee
Nº ~~4~~ 40158

Paris 29 mars 1780

Dear Sir

Je me trouve vous devoir deux reponses. J'en avois fait une que Je dechire parce qu'elle ne contenoit rien d'interessant et qu'il ne me restoit pas de place pour vous dire ce que demande la seconde lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'ecrire.

Je ne vois de moyen de faire parvenir a mr d'Aranda ce que vous voulez qu'il [illegible] que par une lettre, que vous lui ecrirez et q[illegible] adresseriez a mr d'herreria. celle pour mr d'A[illegible]nda en anglois. Il a des interpretes et entr'autres [illegible] qui a eté 20 ans Consul general a Londres [illegible] mr d'herreria en francois vous lui direz q[illegible] le pri[illegible] vam.

vous instruisiez Mr D'Aranda de ce que a été dit au congrès par Mr Carmichael, qu'aucun malheur ne pourroit vous être plus sensible que celui de le savoir aussi prevenu contre vous. que si vous en étiés à portée vous vous flatiez que vous sauriez aisément le détromper mais que votre depart vous en ote les moyens, que tout ce que vous pouvez est de le supplier de suspendre son jugement pendant quelque tems et que vous êtes sur qu'il sera détrompé

Quoique le Comte d'Aranda connoit trop les hommes pour ne pas juger avec precision des effets de la jalousie de la rivalité et des autres passions aux [illegible] [illegible] Eprouver de les

vous

~~fait que [illegible] le~~ [illegible]

~~le prix de la suspension~~ [illegible]

Qu'au reste malgré la [illegible] avec laquelle
ce rapport a été fait au cong[illegible] vous ne pouvez vous
empecher de vous flatter [illegible] qu'il n'est pas
vray ce que Mr Le comte n'a p[illegible] les impressions
qu'on a cherché a lui donner, [illegible] que vous avez de
tout autre homme en place [illegible] rester
tranquille mais que vous av[illegible] ministre aussi
Illustre que lui vous ne le po[illegible] ce que vous
esperez qu'il vous pardonne[illegible] importunité

Vous croyez bien, Monsieur, [illegible] venir pa
modele de lettre que je cherche à [illegible] donner
par [illegible] que on avez [illegible]
vous exprimer mon idée
a Mr D'heredia [illegible]
[illegible]

Sir

Lorient. N.th 22.th 1780

We the Subscribers Seamen and Subjects to the United States of America Exchanged from England in the Milford Cartel on the 22.d of July Ultimo arrived at Pentrapand & Lorient in this Port the 4.th August Ult.o and Entered on board the Pallas the 7.th ditto with Capt.n Cottineau at the Monthly Wages of 55 Livres & other benefits such as Prize Money &c.a we have been in this Town one Month on great expenses without a discharge from the Ship or payment of our Wages during which time we have received no more than two Months pay which was already due for our lodgings &c.a we are at this instant running more in debt this we take to be Very hard to leave all our Money that we have earnd in this manner without being able so much as to Cloth our Selves this neglect of paym.ts to foreign Subject we take to be Unjust and Contrary to all established Laws. Now Sir our desire is to receive the amount of our Wages which will on the 7.th of next Month be 3 Months pay, we have Rec.d already 4 Months pay 2 Months interance and 2 we rec.d the 16.th of this Instant

we ask as just payment for our Prize Money
if not the Cash Security paid in one Or two
Months in order to dispose of it to pur-
chase the Necessaries of life to enable us to
proceed to our Native places which we
so earnestly desire for to see.

Your Hon.rs exerting your
self to Obtain us Justice will Oblige the
Subscribers who as in duty bound Shall
for ever Pray.

To his Excellency Arthur Lee Esq.r

Michael Smith
Thomas Car
Patrick Reed
James [illegible]
Moses Biggar
Jo.n Rainwith
Wm Green

1783

Hond: Sir

Our present Situation, being such we hope you will admit, as an Apology for our troubling you, in requesting your advice, on a Circumstance, of Importance, to ourselves,

Having the Honour, to bear, the Rank of Officers, under, the Command of the Worthy John Paul Jones Esq, on board the American Continental Frigate of War, the Alliance, and unfortunately being seized with an Indisposition which obliged us to be on Shore, at sick Quarters,

the Expence attending it being such, as we are totally uncapable of defraying, and as we received our Indisposition, in the service we hope the Congress will allow us the same Priviligies, which has been granted, by the Marine Board, to Individuals, in the like Situation, - requesting your advice, on this affair,

Affair, we humbly beg leave to subscribe
ourselves with the greatest respect—

Hond. Sir

Your most obedient and
very obliged Hble Servts—

Wm Grinnell

Joseph Wilson

L'Orient
March 29th: 1780

The Honorable
Arthur Lee Esq

Dear Brother) (No 340) L'Orient April 3d 1780

Ludwell & myself are now here to embark in the Alliance, which will sa[illegible]l possibly in a few weeks. Tom will I believe go under ou[illegible]onvoy, in a Merchant Vessel from Nantes. Some di[illegible]ties & perhaps delays it is apprehended will arise ab[illegible]e prize money, due upon the capture of the Serapis, [illegible] of war by Capt. Jones's Squadron, of which the Alliance wa[illegible]one. I have received all the copies you were so good as to send me of the proceedings at Philadelphia regarding me. I am ashamed of them & cannot conceive what can condemn my adversaries if their own actions have not. The whole seems to be a lesson to take care how you prove a man to be a villain least you should procure his advancement. As to Mr Deane it was with a great deal of pain I ever put myself in competition with him; for upon my word I could never feel either the honor or pleasure of a victory over him. Messrs Jay & Carmichael are in Spain, but I have not yet heard what is their reception or success. The latter will I suppose, as is his custom, amuse people with false & flattering accounts of which he himself will always be the hero. I do not know of what mould his Principal is made, but he must expect to be allowed very little merit in what is done

or

or pretended to be done.

Whatever has been Gerard's reception at Versailles, there is such perfect silence kept about it that nothing transpires. I am much deceived if it will be to his honor.

The English fleet of 22 [illegible]il have returned into port, except four which left them [illegible]er Rodney for the West Indies, after victualling & [illegible]forcing Gibraltar, taking & destroying nine Sail of Sp[illegible]ish & French line of Battle Ships, some Frigates, & upwards of 30 Sail of transports richly laden. Such good fortune will animate them to an early & vigorous campaign; & they are working hard at Brest &c to meet it. The expedition that is going out from Brest of 6 Ships & 6000 land forces, will probably sail soon, & it is said their destination is for our Continent, but the real one is secret.

I observe that you say that the Enemy is in possession of our Cyphers. Much good may it do them. We can correspond with the other when necessary. Should you receive this before my arrival I shall be glad to meet at Philadelphia a Letter of advice how you think I ought to act when I get there. To obtain first a full justification of myself from the aspersions which have been wickedly thrown upon me, more by public

Acts then private artifice seems to be the
wisest step. As to accusing any one, or
blaming any Body openly, I apprehend
it is not now the season to do it with
success, however good the ground, & it
is better not t[illegible]tempt what cannot
succeed - It wil[illegible] give the Enemies of
our Independen[illegible]round of triumph in
the appearance [illegible] dissension. After obtaining
the full justification that is due & settling
my accounts, such as remain for I
have always sent them & the Vouchers
regularly to Congress as they came to me,
I would also ~~to~~ repose myself, for
it must be remembered that I have
been now five years in Service, during
which I have enjoyed as little Peace &
repose as my Enemies could wish.

My Love to Loudon & all
with you. Our Brother William
has just got another daughter
She & his family are very well
at Brussels.

Dr Lee

~~No. 18.~~

~~No. 128~~

April 3 1780

(No 340)

~~No. 128~~

Monsieur

Si les sentiments dont vous voulez bien m'aſsurer par la lettre dont vous m'avez honoré le 30 Mars ne peuvent être altérés que par indiscrétion ou injustice de ma part, je puis me flatter de les poſséder dans toute leur force pendant mon existence; attendu que heureusement pour moi, je suis né avec une aversion naturelle pour la discorde, & pour tout ce qui peut y donner lieu, soit vertu, ou foibleſse, chez moi il y a peu de sacrifice que je ne faſse en faveur de la paix; parce que j'ai quelque chose au dedans de moy qui me dit qu'elle seule peut adoucir les misères de l'humanité

D'apres cette profession de foy, je suis fache ne pouvoir vous donner une explication telle que vous la desireriez, parceque je ne puis vous dissimuler ni a moy qu'il etoit [illegible] que vous n'aviez pas la confiance de la Cour; je puis même en être convenu, sans avoir cru vous faire tord, avec gens qui le savoient aussi bien & peut être mieux que moy; mais ce n'etoit pas une chose assez agreable pour la dire & encore moins l'ecrire sans avoir une Vocation expresse. Je serai tout aussi franc & aussi vrai sur le second Article qui regarde Mons. l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne, auquel je n'ai jamais oui dire ni à personne, que vous lui etiez odieux, consequemment j'ai pu encore ins le dire, ni l'écrire.

J'ajouterai à tout ceci, Monsieur, que pendant votre séjour à Paris, où vous m'avez constament vu traiter avec Messieurs les Commissionnaires tant séparement, que collectivement, vous avez dû vous apercevoir que je ne me suis mêlé que du bien de la chose publique, en écartant tout ce qui y étoit étranger.

J'ay l'honneur d'être très parfaitement

Monsieur

Votre très humble & très
obeissant Servit.

Paris le 8 Avril 1780

Grand

Paris ce 8 avril 1780.

J'ay reçu mon cher monsieur la lettre dont vous m'avez honoré le deux de ce mois, très charmé d'apprendre encore de vos nouvelles avant votre départ. je crois que si vous aviez prévu qu'il pût être tant differé, vous ne nous auriez pas quitté sitôt ceque j'aurois fort desiré en mon particulier.

La santé de mon parent qui vous est ainsy que moy respectueusement attaché, va un peu mieux à present; il m'a chargé de vous faire ses adieux et de vouloir bien l'honorer en toute occasion de vos ordres.

- J'en ay pas du tout entendu parler de la personne dont vous faites mention dans votre lettre après son arrivée. j'ay lieu de croire qu'il ne sera plus question de luy et que sa carriere est terminée, n'y ayant aucune apparence qu'il puisse occuper son ancien employ.

Le bruit public de paris est que la paix n'est pas éloignée; mais je ne vois jusqu'ici aucune apparence.

Mr. neker toujours occupé du bien public vient de faire une operation très sage, c'est la suppression d'une grande partie des récéveurs generaux des finances; nous attendons des réformes à la cour, mais on dit qu'elles rencontrent des obstacles

Le mariage de Mr. delaroche foucault a eu lieu le 28 du mois passé, c'est une union des plus heureuses.

J'espere que ma lettre vous trouvera encore à l'orient, et que j'apprendrai dans peu de tems votre heureuse arrivée en amerique. le delay de votre depart contribuera peut être à rendre votre voyage plus prompt et plus sur puisqu'on ne suppose que votre frégate suivra à l'éscadre de brest

J'ay l'honneur d'être, mon cher monsieur, votre très humble et très obeissant serviteur

Le Baron de Wara

A Monsieur

Monsieur arthur Lee

à L'orient

Dear Sir

Antwerp 4 April 1780

I hope this will reach you before yr. imbarkmt. on the great Water, as it conveys to you the fervent wishes of myself & household for your speedy & happy arrival in your Country where if yr. rewards are equal to your merits they will still not be greater than I wish you or than I am sure you deserve.

The Gentleman at Madrid cannot meet with many difficultys there since the Independence of America was publickly proclaimde by beat of Drum at New Orleans the 19th of last August, but I understand that the S[illegible]ry Mr. Carmichael has written to Paris that he went to Madrid first to prepare the way for Mr. Jay which had occasiond him an infinite deal of fatigue in so much that he had not slept for 4 Nights however he had at last surmounted all the difficulties & Mr. Jay was to make his entry into Madrid the 13th of last Month. Supplemt. No. 27 of the Courier de Bas Rhine — The letter said to be authentic written from Philadelphia, is said to have been furnished to the [illegible] of this Gazette, by a Mr. Dumas Agent for Doctr. Franklin at the Hague who it is reported expects to be appointed Chargee des Affaires for the United States of America in Holland. An Amn. Gentleman here supposes that the letter, if tis Genuine, was written by Mr. Silas Deane.

The Empress of Russia has declar'd to the Ambassadors of F. S. & G. B. at Petersburg that she is determin'd to keep a strict Neutrality in the present War & to maintain that neutrality & the genl. freedom of Commerce by a great part of her Naval force, that all neutral ships shall not only sail unmolested on the high Seas, but on the Coasts go in to & out of the Ports of the Parties at War, that Free Ships, shall make Free Goods, unless in Articles of Contraband, conformable to the stipulations of her Treaty with Gt. B.— On these principles she has applyed to Sweden, Denmark, Holland & Portugal publicly to enter into a League with her, wch. no doubt they will do. The associations in England recommended by the meeting of Deputies from the several County Committees seem to be generally approved but still the Parliament seems to be at the beck of the Minister, tho' we shall be able to form a better judgmt. on this head when we know what has been done the 6th. of this month wch. was fixd for taking the County Petitions in[illegible]sideration. In Ireland the People are by no means satisfied with their free trade, Notwithstandg. the addresses of their two Houses of Parliamt. they demand a free Constitution totally independent of the British Parliament & this they will have, if the War continues. Not a word of wt. is become of Clinton, but it appears by the secret orders on board the transport driven to Eng. that the genl. rendevouz was at Tybee. Walsingham was waitg. at St. Helens for a fair Wind the 2d. instt. with the West India fleet, he will have 6 Ships of the Line & 6000 Troops, it is given out in Eng. that he goes first to Africa & from thence to the W. I. but some suspect that he goes directly to N. America for he certainly carries out the recruits for the several regiments now in America. I hope you you will write to me before you sail— yrs. last was the 16 & 17 Ulto. & my last was the 2d. I have not heard from Mr. I——d since you left P.— please to remember me kindly to him.

I am with true regard Dr. Sir at all
times Yrs. Hy. de Bach

1780

No 64

The Honble

Arthur Lee Esqr

L'Orient

If Mr Lee has left L'Orient, to be forwarded to him in Amca by the first good Conveyance, under cover either to the Honble Mr Warren at Boston, or The Honble Wm Shippen in Philadelphia.

1780

Le Baron de Bach alias — Wm Lee
9th April 1780

(No 336)

(~~No 64~~)

Nantes 15th April 1780

Dear Sir

By daily enquiries I have advices of your progress, which by report, I find far from being so advanced as we were given to expect, a months longer Delay would not in the least disappoint my Ideas, your Departure depends on Le Ray de C., as it suits his conve=nience you will be dispatcht, he wishes to have C. Jones at Sea, but cannot consent to send down the needful to satisfy the claims of the Officers & Seamen, the best step you and Mr Izard can take to keep out of troubled waters, which cannot but at times affect you, is to come and pass ten Days at this City, I wish you where so near to Bordeaux I would use more arguments than I can here enforce to engage you, — I mentioned to you I had tendered our Ships to Mr Franklin, but had receivd no answer, during our absence at L'orient, Mr Williams receivd orders from Le Ray de C, to take up our Ships, we laid down our terms on our return from sea, and [illegible] our Ships might be ready to go with you, sent off an Express for the approbation of Doct Franklin who we required to be Guarantee for Mr Williams to the tenor of the Charter. the Express was sent to Du Chaumont, which we knew not til the Day we expected the return, after three Days detention of our Express in Paris, we receivd a Billett from Mr Williams, to informe us the Man

we

were returned and our Conditions found too high, the point is we chose to have no concerns with the C——, which the clause in our offer was too glaring not to be perceived. I expect to learn other Vessels will be taken up for the purpose, and I make no doubt our proposals will be the line for them, they may Charter, which will be their own Ships, for as they have Government money to employ, they will find themselves at no loss to procure Ships — — . I dont learn that Mr Jay has yet reached Madrid, Carmichael keeps up a regular Correspondence with Ross, how he will correspond with others in the Sea ports I cannot say. Bancroft in Paris I suppose to be his Man tell Mr Izard if he please that by what I can learn of Gillon, he appears not Acting to the purpose, much time & money is spent, and nothing forwarded, he has already fetched two hundred & Sixty Thousand Livres, from my friend of Bordeaux; it is now late in April, his last Letters gave me to understand he was disapointed in all his prospects, I know not how to judge, of his motions, if so is the Case, will be hurtful to all, and I shall share a part by the injury it may cause to Mr S. at Bordeaux, who I engaged to go by appearances the Lengths he has and is engaged to go, from circumstances there is room to believe Quebec to be the Object of the present Armament at Brest, I am affraid as in many other occasions the Season will be too far spent before they proceed, to promise Success, if they do not enter the River St Laurence in May, it may be three Months before the

Fleet

get up to the Town, I cannot conceive how Mr De Chaumont is treated, I find Mr Williams is forwarding Goods to go by that Fleet, if they are destined for the Northward, it must be for the Winter Clothing of the Army, and not for that of General Washington, upwards of ten Bales are already forwarded.—

A close intimacy has taken place between Mrs Johnson & Mrs Williams, which will consequently extend to the Husbands, they dine regularly twice in the Week at each others House, and are perpetually in conferences, of their nature I cannot yet acquire, but believe no Matters of moment has yet connected them,

Monsieur Peltier has lately set on the Stocks a Ship to mount 36 nine & twelve pounders, this is for the concern of Beaumarchais Montieu &Co for the Virginia trade, this House and that of Dacostas by their reports, must accept at last ~~of that~~ the State, in payment, the One claims Millions due them, the other Eleven hundred Thousand Livres, no time will free them, if they go on. The Advances of France appear to be great, if we may judge by the commissions executing, which can have no other Source. You have Mr Saml Wharton at Lorient, who appears to be of the favored kind, in some conversation I had on his Subject with Bancroft, he advanced not a man in England had been more serviceable, by the interest of Intelligence he transmitted, he ~~was not to be~~ was not always esteemed favorable, they write from Paris, the Doctor is not well. with sincere Attachment

I am D Sir Your very Hble Servt

John Bondfield

Bondfield on offerin:
his Ships to carry Supplies

15 April 1780
J Bondfield to A Lee
his Charter of Veſsels to
bring Supplies refused
probably by R de Chaumt.

In the Affairs of Mr. Deane, I fear we sh
long feel the sad Effects of Procrastination &
Indecision. After the Publication of the 5th Decem
America had a just Claim upon that Gentleman
to prove his Allegations or take the Shame
which would have been his Portion. It has been
determined otherwise & it is very probable we
shall never know from publick Authority whe
Mr. Deane was a faithful Servant to his Count
or a Defaulter & base Calumniator. At this
Rate Innocence is no Shield nor Honesty a
Protection & I shall esteem him a bold Man
who will venture abroad in a publick Chara
under the Auspices of Congress —

Permit me now Sir before I conclu
to turn your Attention to the unhappy State of

Philadelphia April 15. 1780.

Prest Reed
of Pensa
to R H Lee
Apr 15. 1780.

Sir

I am to acknowledge & thank you for your obliging Favour of the 17. Feby inclosing Mr Lee's Vindication which has been published here in our News Papers & some Extracts since there have been Replies by Mr Conyngham & Mr Joseph Wharton. The Multitude & Enormity of publick Abuses one would have thought should have excited general Attention & Alarm but Attempts to detect & prevent them have generally been resisted in such a Manner as almost to sanctify Unfaithfulness & Dishonesty. I cannot help considering it as one of the most unfavourable Symptoms that while we are all complaining against Abuses soon as the Offender is detected he finds Friends & Advocates even in the most respectable Assemblies

President Reed of Pennsylvania
to R. H. Lee
The dispute with Pennsylva here alluded to was settled the session that this letter was rec'd.

Affairs between Pennsylvania & Virginia. We had flattered ourselves that our Disputes of Territory were happily adjusted & mutual Friendship & Affection would have taken Place of that Distrust & Jealousy which had long prevailed. But the Measure of sending Commissioners to sell & confirm the very Lands ceded to Pennsylvania by the Settlement of this Line & the Contempt shewn to Congress as well as this State have I fear made such Impressions as will not easily be erased. When Nations & States can adopt such pitiful & disingenuous Policy, it becomes common Cause to unite against them & you well know the Jealousy entertained of Virginia forms an easy Ground for this Purpose. The Advantage also taken of our Vicinity to the common Enemy against whom our whole Force is collected & pointed must appear to every generous Mind so irreconcileable to the common Principles

of Gratitude & Justice that it cannot an
suppose this present Measures originate from
the same Spirit or Counsels which created &
conducted this great Contest with Britain —
You may be assured that Pennsylvania will
resent it the Moment she has her Arms at
Liberty & then Virginia will think that she ha
verified the Predictions of our Enemies. A few d
designing & interested Men in the back Country a
certainly practising upon their more honest & un-
distinguishing, or Corruption has pervaded your Coun
in a greater Degree than could have been supposed
from the Infancy of your Government. Your Influence
may do much to retrieve this unhappy Business
& it never can be employed to a better Purpose

The Ladies of my Family thank you for your
very polite Attention & join me in wishing your
Lady Family & self every possible Happiness. I
am Sir with much Esteem Your most Obed. & very Hbl.
Serv. Jos: Reed.

(No 341)

April 16. 1780

My dear Sir

Why so long a silence & how do you do? must the wicked enemies of our country still prosper & go unpunished?

I have been before the Court Martial 3 Weeks but have not finished yet owing to a dispute about evidence – The Congreſs resolved that in cases not capital, Depositions taken from persons not belonging either to ye line or Staff of ye army, before a magistrate, if the prosecutor & person accused are present or cited to attend so many days, may be read in evidence – Morgan supposing himself ye Prosecutor as well as persecutor cited me to attend thro ye deepest snow this winter, which he first broke for 200 miles & was once dug out of a Snow hill & once froze to his saddle – I attended him not but when the weather was better sent a friend round to ye same persons & obtaind certificates from 9 tenths of them that they knew nothing against Dr Shippen & did not mean to injure his character, & that Morgan had earnestly & meanly importuned them to depose some thing or other. – When I appeard before my judges I conscious of my innocence & not doubting but yt in a Court Martial my certificates would be recieved to counteract such depositions - I admitted them to be read - after we broke up it was whisperd among my friends that I was on too slippery ground & that my certificates would be of no use & would not be legal testimony in short that if I convinced their honor & consciences that I was inocent they could not acquit me because the testimony was not legal - upon this I thought I was running too great a risque, as some weak wicked & angry persons might have been persuaded to swear falsely - & begg'd his affidavits might not be admitted urging 5 reasons against them & beg'd time to prepare my defence & take all his dearly earned Oaths over again. this they granted, took 7 or 8 oral witnesses & adjourned till 15th May - My persecutor is now made Depy judge advocate & we set off in 4 or 5 days to go ye circuit & make the poor people give their 4th attestation. The most curious piece of business ever undertaken! - He gives me much trouble, the matters happend so long agoe, & at so many

places

& he is so meanly industrious - there is hardly
an action of 2 years that I am not obliged
to explain. — if you can recollect any persons
who wrote or complaind to Congress of his mal-
-conduct & ye sufferings of ye sick under his care
do write them to me by first post - he wants
to prove all ye clamors were raised by me to get
his place wch you know was not true. —
I know the force of all his Testimony & am
very clear I can oppose it all abundantly
if ye court Martial will allow any Thing
for ye distress & wants of 1777 — ~~my~~ It is very
mortifying to have every boy formerly my
pupils asked what they know of ye [illegible]
General but I must now go thro [illegible]
best compts & Love to your goo [illegible]
& all our cousins. from Mrs. Miss Shippen
& your affectt Bro & humb
Servt
W Shippen

April 16. 1780
Philadelphia.

(No 341) W. Shippen Jr. April 16th 1780 (answered)

My dear Sir, Richmond town in Virginia May 7. 1780

I arrived here six days ago to give my attendance as a Member of this present general Assembly, and here I received your favor of April 16 ~~[illegible]~~ on the 5 instant, for which be pleased to accept my thanks – You ask me if the wicked enemies of our Country still prosper and go unpunished? I answer, that they probably will, until virtue comes to be as industrious as vice, and men in general come to prize the former more than the latter. The stimulated industry that marks your persecutor strongly demonstrates that some other quality than mere virtue influences his conduct, and the bitterness of revenge, ~~with~~ working on disappointed ambition and avarice is plainly perceptible. At this distance of time I cannot recollect the particular ~~written~~ complainants against Dr. Morgan out of Congress – But I remember perfectly well that in Congress Mr. Chace did most warmly oppose Dr. Morgans longer continuance in the Directorship, saying expectably that not a Soldier would be obtained from Maryland if the Director was not changed – I remember Mr. Chace his mentioning particular instances ~~cases~~ of his misconduct which appeared strong at the time – I make no doubt but that you may get the information you want from Mr. Chace, and be availed also by his testimony – If there were any written complaints, no doubt they may be found upon the files of Congress. Having had the pleasure of a great share of your confidence and correspondence, and having been a Member of Congress at the time, it seems more than probable that if you had excited clamors against the Director with a view to succeed him, that I should have heard or known something about it. and yet I can declare before God & Man that I neither knew or heard of any such thing. ~~I well know, that before Dr. Morgans appointment to the Directorship, you exhibited yourself a candidate for the office And that it publicly appeared to Congress~~ I believe there is scarcely a Gentleman who was then a Member of Congress that does not well remember how great & general the dissatisfaction was at that time against the Director General, insomuch that I solemnly affirm it appeared to me as I know it did to many others that the change of the Directorship was indispensable to the collecting of another Army, the former having been chiefly disbanded in the fall of 1776. It appears to me a new mode of judicial proceeding for the prosecutor to be the evidence to try altho the defendant be present – because if they differ concerning the propriety of any assertion, who is to determine, or is either of the parties to determine for himself against the other? In such a case an Individual, whether he was able or otherwise, should be considered as an Atom compared with North America, the safety of which depended absolutely upon an Army, and one speedily obtained. I heartily wish you a successful discharge from this prosecution as I do firmly believe that your services have greatly availed the public. I am once more engaged in the busy scene of politics – Col. Frank too is elected both for our Senate and house of Delegates – he is not yet here, but will be in a few days. My best love attends Mrs. Shippen & my Cousins – Whatever Letters you favor me with after the 15 of June next, must not be directed to this place but as usual at Chantilly –

I am yours my dear Sir most sincerely and affectionately

Richd. Henry Lee

No 25

James Lovell says, in writing to Arthur Lee, (without date) that there was "no clerk in the office of Committee of Correspondence, that the papers lay at random, but that he was determined to have them preserved in due arrangement."

Correspondence between Arthur Lee and M. Gerard.

L'Orient, Apl. 17th 1780

"To M. Gerard, (Book in Dept. of State)

"Sir,

"You are now, as far as I can learn, a private person, and as such I address you.

"In the copy of a paper, transmitted

to me from Congreſs, signed Wm. Paca & Wm. H. Drayton, and laid before that assembly Apl. 30th 79, it appears, that you authorized those gentlemen to inform Congreſs - "*That by my conduct on several occasions, I had created the highest disgust in the Court of Versailles against me; and that the Court of Madrid entertained the same sentiments of me, not only on account of my conduct on those occasions, but because of my imprudent conduct in Spain*."

"This information appears to have been given by you *extra-ministerially*; - certainly without any application for it from Congreſs, and without any alleged instructions to do it from your court.

"I have now, Sir, to desire of you, that, as well in justice to yourself as to me, you will state to me the particulars of that conduct, both in France & Spain, with which you have thus charged me for the expreſs purpose of ruining my character and credit. Being utterly unable to conceive what those particulars are, and having never experienced, observed, or heard the disgust you impute to them, I shall be induced, if not better informed, to treat your assertions in a manner that I shd. be sorry for had I reason to believe there was the least foundation for them.

"As I expect to sail in a fortnight, I hope to receive your answer within that time.

"I have the honor to be &c.

Arthur Lee.

Paris ce 19. Avril 1780

Je reçois, mon cher Monsieur, l'honneur de votre lettre du 14 dans un moment où je vous croyois absolument fort eloigné de nos côtés et où je faisois des voeux pour votre heureux voyage. Si je dois consulter mon plaisir je desire que votre depart soit encore long tems differé pour avoir plus souvent de vos nouvelles, mais je ne crois pas pourtant qu'un trop long delay vous soit aucunement favorable.

Vous saurez l'histoire de Mr. Paradez qui a été arreté le 6 du courant à Versailles, et amené à la bastille, on le soupçonne d'avoir servi d'espion aux Anglois, il est très riche, et peu de jours avant sa detention il etoit sur le point de conclure l'achat d'une terre d'un million, ce qui a donné lieu à examiner sa conduite, après il a à ce que l'on dit 3 millions de bien. vous aurez entendu parler de lui l'année passée, il a joui de quelque consideration dans ce pays ayant de l'esprit, et de la correspondance, est aventurier et fils d'un patissier de Salisbourg en origine.

La nouvelle la plus interessante en politique est la declaration qu'a fait la Czarine aux Cours de Londres, de Versailles, et de Madrid de vouloir proteger le commerce de ses sujets, Elle entend que les vaisseaux neutres ne doivent pas etre molestés lorsqu'ils seront chargés de marchandises qui ne sont pas defendues, quand même elles appartiennent aux sujets des nations belligerantes. Si ce principe etoit adopté pour toutes les Puissances neutres il ne pourroit en resulter que des bons effets

Au reste les speculateurs en politique ne savent pas encore décider si l'objet de la declaration de la Russie est de favoriser l'Angleterre ou bien la France et l'Espagne, après les fureurs qu'elle a portées au commerce national par cette disposition.

La personne d'interêt dont je vous ai déja parlé a obtenu ses lettres de Conseiller d'Etat. Il est sûr qu'elle a quitté tout à fait les affaires et qu'elle est décidée à vivre tranquillement et paisiblement n'ayant rien à desirer ny du coté de l'honneur, ny du coté de l'aisance.

Mon ami et compatriote vous tiendra sans doute sa promesse pour la correspondance scientifique étant en état de la bien remplir par les connoissances qu'il a.

Je vous prie mon cher Monsieur de vouloir bien vous souvenir que vous avez en moy le plus affectionné de vos serviteurs qui sera toute sa vie avec le plus respectueux attachement

le Baron de Hara

[illegible] VII April 24th 1780

It being very uncertain whether this letter will reach you before you have quitted it will prevent me from writing so fully as I would otherwise do — yet I foresee the letter will not be a short one upon the idea that you may poſsibly not be come away — The bearer of this is George Mason Esqr eldest son of Colo George Mason whose good sense and friendship for the family renders him worthy of esteem. The young gentleman had intended for France last year but was disappointed — The same reason induces him to make a second effort, hope of reestablishing his health by the Sea air and the softening climate either of Italy or the South of France as you shall advise him is most salutary for relieving him from the ill consequences of a severe chronic Rheumatism — I have no doubt but that you will give Mr Mason every friendly aſsistance in your power.

Your Letters of August 21. 17 & 28 of September I have received with the enclosures in that of the 17th, since the receipt of which the Aſsembly of this State has not met — they will do so in a week from this time, when the friends of you and their country will be consulted concerning the propriety of presenting your memorial, and measures pursued accordingly. I have much pleasure in aſsuring you that my informations from many parts of the United States confirm that Deane & his Abettors are fallen into universal contempt and reprobation. For my part I believe a wickeder set never sprung from the corrupt compost of Avarice, ambition, envy, and fraud. I caused 500 copies of your Letter to Congreſs dated feb. 10. 1779 answering Deanes Libel to be published and dispersed thro North America, leaving out such parts as might offend by communicating the secrets of Courts friendly to America — this I am sure

your

your patriotism will approve altho such withholdings p
-ted your merit from being so fully displaced - This publication
has had every good effect that could be wished - When you
arrive in America you may find it necessary to prevent
further injuries to your country by some nefarious professors
of 297 b XXXIV 385 b XV to open public men and their
measures more fully to the community. As fully as may
consist with Union the great principle of our Countries safety.
Deane was arrested in Philadelphia at your suit in an
action of slander damage £200,000 - he gave appearance
bail, but as the law would not compel special bail in
such actions, he has made his escape before judgement - so
that now he may not be found to answer the damages that
shall be awarded. I formerly proposed to you that it would
be very proper for you in your way to Congress to pass if possible
thro New hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island & Connec
-ticut, there to visit Gen. Whipple, Mr. Sam. Adams, Gen. Warren
Mr. Ellery & Mr. Marchant, and Governor Trumbull, with
many other virtuous friends of their country and you - I still
hope you may do so. Our worthy & learned friend Geo. Wythe
esquire is now Professor of law in Wm. & Mary College - his lectures
are greatly admired, and it deserves your consideration whether
your nephew Ludwell would not be greatly benefitted by atten
-ding his lectures whilst he is reading the laws of Virginia and
getting a competent knowledge of the attorneys practise - his
father thinks so, and if you approve it I can spare him, he
may come presently here for the above purpose. There is now
a fine opening for able Lawyers at the Gen. Court Bar, and the
sooner he commences with propriety the better. Your friends think
that Boston or Philadelphia will be the best Theatres for the
display of your Law powers. They are certainly much superior places
to this country in that Line. After the very ungrateful treatment

Philadelphia his Exc. the President in Congreſs April 25 1780

(N°.342)

Most honoured Sir

These dispatches having been detained a forthnight longer than was intended, I open them for the sake of adding the important Intelligence of this Province having unanimously accepted the proposals of Russia, & that there is no doubt [illegible], that all the other provinces will adopt this resolution, as they have now adopted that of the unlimited Convoys, & of refusing the succours claimed by Gt. Br.

These 4 last weeks I have undergone a very violent persecution, the cause of which I shall but briefly mention to your Excellency

In a Letter of febr.y last to Mr. Carmichael at Madrid, I desired that he would no more send me his Letters under cover of Sir G— G— one of the partners of an eminent house here, being the father in Law of Genl. Prev—, in great intimacy with Mr. Rick, a Merch.t of Amst— wholly devoted to the English Court, & suspected for these & other reasons [illegible] by the Americans & their friends. This Letter I sent to his Exc.y Franklin, who sent it with other Letters to Mr. F— G— his Banker, & Brother to Sir G—, to be put under cover to his Correspondent at Madrid. But Sir G—, without any consideration of respect to ~~[illegible]~~ his Exc.y, & to such a sacred place as was de Desk of his Brother, has stolen it from thence, broken the

Seal, & carried the Letter with him to a great man who
protects him, and of whom I had imprudently put down
that I thought him not a friend to America; Which, I fear,
he will never forget. Some great friends of Am— would
have me proſecute Sir Gd—, but his Excy Franklin,
who wrote to me the whole Transaction, "desires me to
„ keep it for my satisfaction only, becauſe the making
„ it public would give an infinite pain to Mr. F— Gd—,
„ who would then appear in the light of Delateur de ſon
„ frere, & it can ſerve no other purpoſe but that of Vengeance on
„ Sir G—, & be of no advantage to me. — I must insist (continues
„ his Excy) on your Generosity in keeping it a ſecret to yourſelf;
„ In this you will alſo very much oblige me, who would by no
„ means have my name publickly mentioned on this occaſion
„ And I depend on your compliance." In obedience to his Excy
Franklin, I have dropt the matter here; & if I mention it to
your Excy, it is only to prevent any misrepresentation, with
which I am menaced from the part of Sir G— &c. For should
he provoke me before Congreſs, I have in hands what is neceſsary
to confound him; and he cannot complain of my Letter, without
producing at the ſame time his own condemnation; by de-
claring that he came at it by dishonest & unwarrantable means
which even his protectors dare not to avow, & which justify thoſe
who ſuspected him.

I write this at the houſe of my worthy friends, Mrs. J. De Neufville & Son, who are alſo true friends of America, and worthy of the attention an confidence of the most hon. Congreſs under the protection of which I am with the greateſt respect, for ever

Most honoured Sir
Your Excellencies

Most humble & most
obedient ſervant
Dumas
Agent of the Un. States of Am.

Amsterdam April 25th
1780.

The origin of all this noiſe is no other than jealoſy of Sir G—, againſt Mrs. J. De Neufville & ſon, who have had the approviſionement of the American Squadron at Texel-road, which Sir G— thought was due to him.

(~~No 67~~)
(No 343)

Mr. Dumas
To Presᵗ of Congress
April 25th 1780
Recd Sep. 4.

April 25.
Mr. Dumas to the
Presidᵗ of Congress
recd Sepʳ 4.

Holland accedes to
the proposals of Russia
his own affairs
Grand's Persecution
of Mr Dumas

80.67

Sir,

Passy April 26. 1780

I received yours of the 17 Instant. The prize money due to Capt. Wickes & the Officers & People of the Reprisal was I imagine received by him before he sailed for America, & in that case it is probable your share was received with the rest. But if any of the prizes remaind unsold when he went away, which I do not remember, the produce of such prizes must have come into the hands of Mr. T. Morris or of Messrs. Morris & Lee, who are accountable for the same. It never belong'd to me to pay any prize money due to the captors, for none of it ever came into my hands, and what you received from Dr. Bancroft for which I am to repay him, was ~~in~~ not as payment to you, but so much advance in kindness to you, considering your necessities, which you are to refund when you receive your wages, & which I doubt not you will do on your arrival in America.

I am Sir, your most Humble Servant

(Signed) B. Franklin

Addressed
a Monsieur
Monsieur Samuel Ross, a bord de l'Alliance
recommandé aux soins de Messrs. Gourlade et Moylan Negts
a L'Orient

Lieut. Digges

Sir

Nantes April 24th 1779

I received your Letter from Brest which I did not answer supposing the Alliance would be gone before the return of post. Mr Wills has since given me your Letter from St Nazare.

In answer to your request I have to inform you that in Capt. Nicholsons acct. with me I find charged paid [illegible] you viz.

1777 Nov. 13 — 96

30 — 48 144 — which may serve to rectify any mistake Capt. Nicholson may have made when you meet again.

I paid Capt. Parkers prize money because I had it in my hands & if I had any belonging to you I would do the same, but I never sold any prize taken in the Cruise you speak of, nor ever recd. a farthing on acct. of it, I therefore cannot be answerable.

I am sorry for your want of money, many others are in this respect worse off than you are & it is out of my power to help it.

I wish you every success & am

Your Humble Servant

(Signed) Jona. Williams

Note of the Vessels alluded to

The Snow Friendship sold at Nantes loaded with Cork

The Sloop Betsey loaded with Wheat sold at D°

The Sloop Jason with Cables & Anchors sold at Morlaix

The Brig Hetty in Ballast sold at Nantes

The Brig Jenney, Butter sold at L'Orient

Copies of Letters from D. Franklin & Mr Williams about the Sale of Wickes's prizes

Papers concerng

M. Gerard's Answer.

(Translation)

"Versailles Apl. 28. 1780

"Sir,

"The letter, which you wrote me on the 17th. I received day before yesterday.

"The different objects, which you mention, being purely ministerial, I cannot, nor is it my duty, to render account of them to any other persons, than my sovereign and his ministers. This is the only answer, which I have to make to your letter. You will attempt in vain to provoke another by any means whatever, and nothing will change my sovereign indifference to the execution of your menaces.

"I have the honor to be, &c

Gerard.

My Dear Friend

Prepare the mind of our friend Mr. Parker for an account of the death of his Son Colonel Parker who had the glory some day last Week of being carried off by a Cannon Ball in the course of his daily bravely contributing to save his Country.

Charles Town is in great jeopardy & you shall know particulars by to morrows Post.

Adieu
Henry Laurens

Wilmington No. Carolina
7th May 1780

The Honorable
Richard Henry Lee Esquire
at Chantilly Westmoreland
County — £2..18..0

66.16
100.16
173..5

To be left at the
first Ordinary
or in some more
quickly conveyed —

Virginia

135 — 38
2.55 — 110
12-30 — 360
6-20 — 120
4-15 — 60
1-10 — 10
4/8 — 0 — 72
6 — 7 — 42
809

62
372
18.1

009
12
5
18
844
506.4
259.4
18.12
£1271.16

Ports. à Versailles le 7. Mai 1780.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'ecrire le 27. du mois passé.

Il ne m'est pas possible de vous procurer un passage direct pour l'Amerique Septentrionale. J'en ai beaucoup de regrets. Mais je vous offre de donner des ordres pour que vous puissiez vous embarquer sur le premier Batiment qui sera expedié pour la Martinique, où vous trouverez des facilités pour passer aux Etats Unis. Je desire que cet arrangement puisse vous convenir.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec la plus parfaite consideration, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant Serviteur.

M. Arthur Lée ancien député des Etats Unis à l'orient./

My dear Sir (No 348) May 12 1780

I am so engaged & worried with my persecuting enemy that nothing could induce me to write, but its being to you & at ye desire of Mrs Shippen.

I have just finished taking the Depositions in ye Country & set off to morrow for camp again to finish the Trial an immensity of trouble it gives me & to be sure is of all little things the least — when tis over I will give you an account more particularly. Mrs Shippen encloses you a newspaper wch you must long ago have seen, & begs you will show it to Mr Diggs & give your opinion of it Tis a very impudent affair. — She has received ye gown many thanks for it and thinks tis most beautiful — Mr D. Bo[illegible] a gentleman of character begs to be introduced to you Mrs S. thinks well of him. Adieu & believe me

D. Sir Your affect. &
very humb. Servt.
W. Shippen

May 12. 1780
Philada

The Marquis D Le. Fayette is arrived in New england & Monsr. Marbois tells Mr. Shippen he has brought Letters from A. Lee Esqr. —— not yet come to hand.

The hon.ble Richard Henry Lee Esqr

Chantilly

Virginia

No 426

Hon'd by the Baron DeKalb.

W. Shippen 1780

(No 343) (~~No 4 26~~)

May 12th 1780

Dr Wm Shippen Jr

The gran

74

84

May 16. 1780

Sir

In answer to your favor of the 8 Instant which is just come to hand we can only repeat what we have had the honor of writing you the 4 Instant that is that Meſs.rs Bondfield & Haywood are gone to Bordeaux & that they have promised us to ſettle that affair with Captain Gale & write you in consequence we will take care to communicate them

the

Nantz 16 May 1780

// the Contents of your Letter ℘ tomorrow's post & doubt not but that they will procure you ample ſatiſfaction — Your Nephew is ſtill at Paimbeuf waiting the wind —

We have the honor to be very respectfully

Your mo: hbl & ob Servants

Sir ℘ Schweighauser & Dobrée

To the Honourable W Lee Esqr. Bruxelles

Schweighauser & Co. Nantes. 16. May
Recd ——— 20 Do. 1780

A L'honourable
Monsieur Guille Lee
chés Messieurs Overmann
freres Banqrs
à Bruxelles

1780

Schweighauser & Dobrée.
May 16th 1780

[Papers relating to the
Charge of Simeon Deane]

Brussells 17 May. 1780.

Dear Brother

I send you herewith copies of the Certificates you desire but I request you to be very cautious in showing or making any use of them; for as to myself being totally independent & having nothing to hope or fear, I shall look with sovereign contempt on any thing that Mr. Morris or his Agent Mr. Ross can do or say & I wd. not have your time & attention, which can be so much better employed in the service of your Country & the Public cause, taken up about what concerns me. Besides I do not wish them to know that such vouchers exist, in hopes that they may bring the charges against me, or make them excuse for the deficiency of some of the papers, as you suppose they may do. Such Charge or Excuse being made & reduced to writing & signed, then will be a time to expose & authenticate their wickedness in the whole proceedings & may enable me to substantiate a claim agt. Mr. R. Morris for my share of the Commissions recd. by his Brother.

If the persons of the Alliances Company who are interested in the prizes made in the cruise of Captains Weeks, Johnson & Nicholson will apply to me by letter signed with all their Names, specifying under what Captain they sail'd & their rank in the Ship, I will give them immediately all the satisfaction & information in my power, which may be of service to them. They should also send me a certified Copy of their application on the Subject to Doctr. Franklin & Mr. Jonathan Williams, with attested Copies of both these Gentlemens Answers; and a list of all the prizes taken in that cruise, mentioning the vessels names, size & loading, to what Port in France they were sent & to whom addressed in those Ports. You & they are now on the Spot to trace, if any, one of those prizes, which was a valuable one into the hands of Mr. Williams, viz. the Brig sent into L'Orient which he mentions in his public Accts. as havg bot of Messrs. Gourlade & Co. & is I believe now in his possession tradg from Nantes to Amca. under the name of the Three Friends.

Remember that your objects are great & of most momentous importance to your Country, therefore let not the old Sinner from his Pandemonium engage your attention by triffling objects, which he is perpetually inventing & throwing out on purpose. I have little else to do, therefore can easily ~~me~~ meet him so far as concerns myself. Mons. De S. has promised to convey the Comrs. & his people over in a Frigate, but when is not settled. I do not think the Comrs. will get away for some months, perhaps not this summer, however I suppose, on askg, you wd. be accomodated wth. a passage in ye first Frigate that sails.

a Letter fm Amsterdm of ye 13th inst. says thus "Jones has the Command of the "Serapis the Pallas & ~~Countess~~ Scarborough are to be sold at Dunkirk, & it is "that Capt Green is to have the command of the Alliance."

I sent you last night all the news we had. I hear that ye 45n wrote fully the 15th Mr J. desires his best respects & all yr friends here are well & send you & Sudwell their Love.

God bless you, Farewell.

said seal & hand writing I do verily believe them to be as above mentioned. The Commissioners I understood attended to see the Papers relative to the public business selected from those of a private nature; but from the absence of The Honble Silas Deane the other Commissioner the operation was postponed, & the Trunk left in the hands of the said William Lee the Seals not having been broken in my presence. Given under my hand in Paris this 3^{d} March 1778.

(Signed) Ra. Izard.

I Certify the above to be a true Copy Edm: Jenings } Witness J. J. Pringle.

(Copy.)

Received of the hon^{ble} William Lee Esqr a Trunk said to contain all the Books & Papers of the late Thomas Morris Esqr Joint Commercial Agent for the Secret Committee of Congress with the said William Lee, which relates to ~~his~~ the Public as well as to his private concerns. The said Trunk being seal'd with the Seal of William Blake Esqr of South Carolina & certified by the hand writing of the said William Blake & John Lloyd Esq^{rs} of South Carolina to have been seal'd in their presence, which seal & hand writing were verified to me by the Honble Ralph Izard Esqr he being well acquainted with the same. And also with two Seals of the said William Lee on Tapes over the Locks. The said Trunk I promise to keep in my possession in its present State & to deliver the same on demand to the said William Lee or his order. Given under my hand at Passy near Paris, this 4th day of March 1778.

(Signed) B. Franklin.

Signed in our presence. S. Deane – Arthur Lee.

I Certify the above to be a true Copy. Edm: Jenings

(Copy)

We the underwritten at the request of William Lee Esquire ~~and~~ went with him on the ninteenth day of February one thousand seven hundred & seventy eight to the Publick Office of Monsieur Delisparre Avocat au Parlement et Greffier en chef de la ~~[illegible]~~ Presidial de Nantes, where a Trunk containing the papers of the late Thomas Morris Esqr. was open'd, and upon being examin'd by the said Monsieur Delisparre, & compared with the record he had before made of them, he declared to us, that they were the same as when deliver'd to William Lee Esqr. after which they were all put again into the same trunk, which was lock'd & seal'd by us & left in the possession of the said William Lee Esqr. which we certify under our hands at Nantes this twenty eight day of February one thousand seven hundred & seventy eight.

(Sign'd) William Blake
John Lloyd.

I certify the above to be a true Copy. Edm: Jenings

(Copy)

I do hereby Certify that at the request of the Honble William Lee Esqr. attended at Chaillot the 27th Feb. 1778; where in the presence of the Honble Benjamin Franklin & Arthur Lee Esqrs. Commissioners of the United States of America in France, he produced a Trunk, which was said to contain all the papers of the late Thomas Morris Esqr. one of the joint Continental Commercial Agents with the said William Lee; which Trunk was seal'd with four Seals of William Blake Esqr. of South Carolina and certified thereon in the hand writing of the said William Blake & John Lloyd Esqrs of South Carolina that the same was seal'd in their presence; & being well acquainted with the said approve the Resolution of the House of Commons, and [illegible] commanded me to say that a compliance therewith by the General Assembly of Maryland will be most graciously considered by his Majesty not only as a testimony of their reverence for Parliament but also as a mark of their Duty and attachment to their Sovereign who has no object nearer to his heart than the peace and prosperity of his subjects in every part of his dominions. ^

At the same time his Majesty considers himself as bound by every tie to exert those means the Constitution has placed in his hands for preserving that Constitution entire, and to resist with firmness every attempt to violate the Rights of Parliament, to distress and obstruct the lawful Commerce of his subjects and to encourage in the Colonies Ideas of Independence inconsistent with their connection with this kingdom.

From Committee of Congress consisting of Genl Schuyler, Mr Mathews & Mr Peabody,
to Governor Lee

Morris Town 30 May 1780

Sir, Yesterday we were honored with a dispatch from Congress conveying to us three resolutions of the 29th Instant together with a Copy of their circular Letter of the same date, to the several States from New Hampshire to Virginia inclusive. By one of the former we are appointed to assist the Commander in Chief in drawing out supplies for the Army; and the line of Conduct we are to pursue is pointed out in those subsequent; the whole having been transmitted to your State together with the circular letter it is unnecessary to enclose your Excellency a Copy

Immediately on receipt of these papers we laid them before the Commander in Chief, and intreated him to signify what supplies were immediately necessary to move the Army and to put it in a Condition to Co-operate vigorously with the shortly expected succour of the Great and Generous Ally of these States — This request, we candidly avow was made more with a view to preserve form in conducting business than for want of competent information on the subject that having been fully detailed us by the General and others on former conferences when acting as a Committee of Arrangement He consequently had only to refer to what had been before delivered us by him and others and which was in substance as follows That the Army was five months pay in arrear — that it had seldom or never since it took the Cantonment had more than six days provisions in advance — that at present it is without meat and has been on half and on quarter allowance for some days past — that the Commissaries cannot give any assurances of doing more than barely subsisting the troops from day to day – that even then they apprehended a want of meat will frequently prevail; that the Army is greatly deficient in Camp Equipage – that it is destitute of Forage for the few horses which indispensible necessity are required should be maintained in Camp – that it will require several thousand horses to move the Army, so as to promise any effectual Operations from it, that the sick in the Hospitals have not a sufficiency of those articles necessary for their Comfort, that Carriages in considerable number are wanted – that the Qr Master General has not a competent number of boats for the use of the Army in case any offensive Operations should take place – that he has no materials for constructing new Boats and Carriages nor even for repairing the old, – that as every department of the Army is without money, and not even the shadow of credit left consequently no article however necessary can be procured; that the transportation even of the inadequate supply of Flour, Forage and other articles hitherto furnished by the States is at a Stand, that very few of the recruits required by the Act of Congress of the 9th of Feby last have arrived, that from information received there is no prospect that any considerable number will timely engage in the Service on voluntary inlistment. That by the expiration of the terms for which men were engaged deaths and desertions, the Army is so greatly reduced, that it does not afford a probable prospect of its acting with any degree of efficacy in merely defensive Operations – that the patience of the soldiery who have endured every degree of conceivable hardship and borne it with fortitude and perseverance beyond the expectations of the most sanguine, is on the point of being exhausted. That a spirit of discontent is encouraged by the acts of the Enemy, whose emissaries hold up in printed papers distributed among the Soldiers the most flattering prospects and promises to induce them to desert their colours.

The evidence given in support of this detail of facts – has been fully corroborated by our own observation and enquiry and painful as is the contemplation of the distresses or formidable labours under may be, we conceive it would have been inconsistent with our duty to have palliated or disguised them in an address to the constituents of that body under whose authority we act as they ought in our opinion to be fully informed: For it is to them this Committee is directed to apply and on them every reliance, for relief and assistance must rest in this very critical and important moment, but so far are we from desponding under the variety of embarrassments that we reflect with satisfaction, the result of conviction, that the Country is not destitute of the Resources, necessary to enable its army to act with vigor and to secure the views of our illustrious Ally, and that the Legislative and executive powers of your State impressed as we are with a just sense of the magnitude of the object are equally determined [illegible] of drawing them forth.

à Paris ce 29. May 1780

Je vous suppose encore mon cher Monsieur, à l'Orient puisque le brave Comandant de l'Alliance se trouve encore en cette Capitale. depuis quelque tems on fait ici de heureux presages pour la paix, on fonde l'esperance sur les forces formidables parties pour l'Amerique, dont on attend quelque succès decisif, et on se flatte en même tems que la Confederation du Nord pour soutenir la liberté du commerce pourra y contribuer tant par les mesures que prendront les puissances qui l'ont formée, que par les bons offices qu'elles pourront employer. Quand même il n'y auroit aucune action decisive dans le courant de cette campagne on ne desespere pas, que pendant l'hiver il n'y ait d'une maniere ou d'autre quelque ouverture pour un accomodement.

La Lettre confidentielle de Clinton à Lord Germaine fait ici beaucoup de bruit, elle sera imprimée dans le Mercure, ou dans quelqu'autre papier public.

On dit que l'Escadre de Toulon est partie. elle se rendra à Cadix, où l'on assure aujourd'huy qu'elle se joindra aux quatre vaisseaux de Mr. de Beausset, et à 21 autres vaisseaux Espagnols jusqu'à concurrence de 30, qui iront de là se réunir à l'escadre de Brest qui sera d'environ 20 vaisseaux, de maniere que la grande flotte d'observation monteroit par ce moyen à 50 vaisseaux,

et les Anglois n'en auront pas davantage un pareil nombre
ils pourroient tenter d'empecher la reunion de ces forces
unies. Cette entreprise paroit assez difficile. on dit aussi
que 10 vaisseaux, qui etoient au Ferrol sont partis pour
Cadix pour se joindre aux françois. Une telle jonction
semble incroyable quoiqu'on n'ait sçu jusqu'ici.
on ne parle plus du Sr [illegible]. Les Hollandois
paroissent etre embarassés dans les mesures qu'ils
prennent pour la sureté de leur commerce,
ils ont de l'argent, mais pas des vaisseaux,
ni de matelots et point d'officiers.

Honnorez moi de vos nouvelles le plus
souvent que vous pourrez, et soyez convaincu des sentimens
respectueux et sinceres avec lesquels j'ay l'honneur
d'etre, mon cher Monsieur, votre très humble et très
obeissant serviteur
Baron de Waro

P. Brooke
agt. Capt. Jones

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] from [illegible]

[illegible] of

[illegible] wake

you think is by following them implicitly. I have never been exposed in these more than [illegible] of [illegible] Declaration pray [illegible] these have [illegible] any thing [illegible] lay within [illegible] to [illegible] with and [illegible] they have been amply paid [illegible] while [illegible] [illegible] office & [illegible] authority which was on the 4th December 1779, untill some time in [illegible] 1780 when I went on shore at Corunna (in Spain) and there I had an opportunity to take either legal ~~or~~ [illegible] satisfaction, or that which is requisite for a gentleman. you may no doubt have heard of our misfortune of being [illegible] prisoners on our passage from Corunna to America, along with Capt. Cunningham and several other Americans, all of them (except Capt. Cunningham) were permitted by the Captain to go on board a [illegible] I now bound into Lisbon.

where we arrived the 5th of [illegible] tho the Capt of the privateer detained me on board, with a false idea of receiving a reward for it when he arrived in England. I have spent much time here by waiting for a Dutch vessel, which was fitting to sail for St Eustatia, and am disappointed in not getting a passage at last, for want of a passport that cannot be obtained any where else but in Holland. There are two Portugese vessels which are to sail for St Eustatia in a fortnight, if I cannot get a passage in one of them I shall set out for France immediately. There are American papers in town as late as the 8th of April which mention that General Clinton had summoned Charles Town to surrender, and was answered by General Mutry that he was determined to sell the Town as dear as possible. The inhabitants were in no apprehensions about the safety of themselves without propriety [illegible]

[illegible] assure [illegible] sufficient [illegible]

[illegible] there were [illegible] on the reason which

[illegible] to see you [illegible]

to which I think would be public [illegible]

[illegible] and that would be [illegible] open to commit to

paper. This single observation I take the liberty

of mentioning, which is that during my late

[illegible] to the different Councils I

have not met with one man whom I can

with propriety say is a real friend to America

the vale of [illegible]

[illegible] the innumerable [illegible]

[illegible] by one single [illegible] to see

though [illegible] through [illegible]

be so kind as to make my best compliments

to Mr Lidwel [illegible]

[illegible] and esteem [illegible]

[illegible]

Lisbon May 30
1780

Traité du Vaisseau l'Indien

Entre

L'État de la Caroline du Sud

Et

M. le Chevalier de Luxembourg.

30 mai 1780.

M. Semilliard Notaire.

Pardevant les Conseillers du Roi
Notaires au Châtelet de Paris soussignés ont été présents

M. Alexandre Gillon Commodore de la Marine de la Caroline du Sud en Amérique demeurant ordinairement à Charles Town étant de présent à Paris logé à l'hotel des bains d'Orleans rue de richelieu paroisse St. Eustache.

Agissant et stipulant au nom de l'Etat de la Caroline du Sud faisant partie des Etats unis de l'Amerique — Septentrionale en vertu de sa résolution du vingt huit mars mil — sept cent soixante dix huit et en exécution de la Commission particulière qui lui a été donnée en conséquence par Son Excellence M. Rawlins Lowndes Président et Commandant en chef dud. Etat datté de Charles Town du sept juillet aud. an mil sept cent soixante dix huit, signé sur le repli Lowndes, et plus bas par ordre de son Excellence signé Jn. huguer Sécrétaire, scellée du grand sceau dud. Etat ; légalisée tant par M. Franklin Ministre plénipotentiaire des Etats unis de l'Amérique en France le vingt sept septembre mil sept cent soixante dix neuf que par M. Lée Commissaire du Congrès des Etats les vingt neuf septembre et dix octobre aud. an mil sept cent soixante dix neuf, dont l'original en langue angloise a été representée par led. S. Gillon avec la traduction, qui en a été faite en françois à Paris par le S. de Lepidor ancien Sécrétaire Interprete du Roi aux affaires étrangeres qui l'a certifiée véritable le jour d'hier, controlée à Paris par Lezan ce jourd'hui ; lesquelles deux pièces sont demeurées annexées à la minute des présentes après avoir été dud. S. Gillon certifiées véritables, signées et paraphées en presence des Notaires soussignés.

Et encore led. S. Gillon agissant et contractant en son nom personnel comme garantissant en son propre et privé nom l'exécution et accomplissement du present traité d'une part:

Et très haut, très puissant et très illustre seigneur Anne-Paul-Emmanuel Sigismond de Montmorency Chevalier de Luxembourg premier Baron chrétien de France, chevalier non profès de la religion de St. Jean de Jérusalem et de l'ordre royal et militaire de St. Louis, Brigadier des armées du Roi et Capitaine en survivance de l'une des Compagnies des Gardes du Corps de Sa Majesté: demeurant en l'hotel de Montmorency Tingry rue de Varenne paroisse St. Sulpice.

Ayant droit de jouir pendant trois ans du Vaisseau l'Indien appartenant au Roi suivant le placet que led. seigneur Chevalier de Luxembourg a presenté à cette fin à Sa Majesté qui y a mis son Bon et l'ampliation qui en a été délivrée par M. de Sartine Ministre et Secrétaire d'Etat au département de la Marine le premier mars mil sept cent quatre vingt et demeuré annexé à la minute des présentes après avoir été dud. Seigneur de Luxembourg signé et paraphé en présence des Notaires soussignés, d'autre part.

Lesquelles parties ont dit, savoir:

M. le Commodore Gillon: que l'Etat de la Caroline meridionale par son décret ou délibération le vingt huit mars mil sept cent soixante dix huit a pris la résolution de faire construire ou d'acheter trois frégates ou Vaisseaux de guerre dans des ports étrangers et de les y faire équiper pour sa plus grande sureté et défense contre les déprédations des ennemis des Etats de l'Amérique; qu'à cet effet il a envoyé en Europe des marchandises et denrées du sol et des manufactures du Pays jusqu'à cinq cent mille pounds dont partie a été prise dans la traversée par les ennemis et l'autre partie a été vendue peu avantageusement: et en prevoiant que ses intentions pourroient être retardées et deçues, led. Etat auroit arrêté que la foi publique dud. Etat seroit engagée pour le remboursement à une certaine Epoque des Capital et interêts des sommes d'argent quelconques qui pourroient être empruntées en Europe pour suppléer et remplir le vuide ou déficit qui pourroit se trouver dans celle accordée pour l'équipement desd. trois frégates et que M. Lowndes Commandant en chef de l'Etat de la Caroline du Sud qui est chargé par sa place de l'exécution du décret ou résolution de l'Etat, voulant pourvoir au déficit survenu sur lesd. marchandises et denrées, auroit de l'avis du Conseil privé dud. Etat nommé et commis led. S. Gillon pour négocier en faveur de ce même Etat avec toute puissance et Etat étrangers ou avec leurs sujets un emprunt suffisant pour remplir l'entier montant du déficit qui pourroit se trouver dans lad. somme de cinq cent mille pounds accordée à l'effet de procurer lesd. frégates et a déclaré que par là, la foi publique dud. Etat étoit engagée à rembourser à toute puissance, Etat, compagnie ou individu étrangers toutes et chacune des sommes d'argent qui pourroient être prises à titre d'emprunt par led. Commodore Gillon pour le déficit ci dessus spécifié de même que leurs interêts conformément aux termes et conditions convenues et stipulées entre les preteurs et led. S. Gillon, pour devoir être exprimées et établies d'une manière particulière par un écrit signé de sa main et scellé de son cachet, lequel écrit ainsi muni de sa signature et sceau, obligeroit désormais en tout tems led. Etat à en accomplir le contenu conformément à sa teneur et aux conditions et conventions qui y seroient spécifiées. A quoi led. S. Gillon a ajouté qu'en empruntant pour trois années une frégate ou vaisseau de Guerre pour le compte dud. Etat, il rempliroit encore plutot les vues de cette puissance.

Et led. Seigneur Chevalier de Luxembourg: que pour être placé au Roi, il a supplié Sa Majesté de lui accorder pour trois ans la propriété ou plutot la jouissance du Vaisseau l'Indien avec ses canons, voiles et agrets étant dans le port d'Amsterdam en s'engageant de le faire sortir de ce port et de l'armer sans demander de matelots et sans pouvoir prétendre à aucun dédommagement en cas qu'il ne put le faire sortir du port ou qu'il lui arrivat des accidens.

Led. Seigneur de Luxembourg a encore exposé à Sa Majesté qu'il espéroit de ses bontés qu'il lui seroit permis d'acheter led. vaisseau les trois années expirées, si les campagnes dans lesquelles il seroit engagé n'étoient pas finies.

Dans ces circonstances le Commodore Gillon auroit proposé aud. Seigneur Chevalier de Luxembourg de prendre au service de l'Etat de la Caroline du Sud le Vaisseau l'Indien dont il s'agit et à cet effet de lui céder sa jouissance dud. Vaisseau offrant de l'équiper et de l'armer aux frais et dépends de la Caroline du Sud et de l'employer pendant trois ans à la deffense dud. Etat contre les déprédations des Ennemis des Etats unis de l'Amerique qui sont les alliés de Sa Majesté, en même tems que leurs ennemis sont aussi ceux du Roi: laquelle proposition a été acceptée par led. Seigneur de Luxembourg: et voulant les parties constater autentiquement les différentes conventions qu'elles ont déja faites à ce sujet elles ont reconnu être demeurées d'accord de ce qui suit.

Art. 1er.

M. le Chevalier de Luxembourg a cédé délaissé et abandonné à l'Etat de la Caroline du Sud faisant partie des Etats unis de l'amérique septentrionale la jouissance du Vaisseau nommé l'Indien étant actuellement dans le port d'Amsterdam, avec tous ses agrêts, apparaux et canons suivant les Etats acquittés qui en seront fournis à M. Gillon en lui délivrant le Vaisseau et ce pour trois années à compter de la livraison du vaisseau que M. le chevalier de Luxembourg en fera faire incessamment aud. S. Gillon pour led. Etat de la Caroline du Sud.

Art. 2.

Le Commodore Gillon en lad. qualité a promis et s'est obligé de faire sortir led. vaisseau du port d'Amsterdam dans l'espace de six semaines et de la rade du Texel dans le cours de trois mois à compter du jour qu'il en aura pris possession pendant lequel il sera tenu de le faire equiper et armer et de l'entretenir en cet état pendant le cours de ses croisières, le tout aux frais et depends dud. Etat qui sera entièrement tenu des avaries et mise hors dud. vaisseau comme s'il lui appartenoit.

Art. 3.

Led. S. Gillon prendra le commandement dud. vaisseau et le gardera pendant lesd. trois années suivant les ordres particuliers qu'il a dit avoir à cet égard dud. Etat: et s'il étoit malade ou s'il venoit à mourir il seroit suppléé par un autre officier de la nation au choix dud. Etat.

Art. 4.

Ne pourra led. vaisseau être employé à aucun autre usage qu'en croisière dans tel parage que led. Etat jugera articles cinq et six ci dessus.

2°. Et la somme de Cent mille livres que led. Seigneur de Luxembourg a reconnu avoir présentement reçu dud. S. Gillon en lettres de change dont il est content et en a quitté et déchargé lesd. Etat de la Caroline et led. S. Gillon.

Et au cas que le Vaisseau ait le malheur d'être pris par les ennemis ou de périr moyennant:

1°. Le quart dans le bénéfice net des prises, rançons et autres avantages résultans des articles cinq et six ci dessus.

2°. Et la somme de Quatre cents mille livres sur laquelle demeurera précomptée celle susd. de Cent mille livres: à l'égard des trois cents mille livres restant led. S. Gillon en sad. qualité et en son nom personnel solidairement a promis d'en faire le paiement en espèces sonnantes aud. Seigneur de Luxembourg entre les mains et sur les quittances dud. S. Grand dans le cours du tems qui resteroit à expirer desd. trois années sans aucun interêts pendant led. tems.

Art. 11

Et la garantie et au paiement de lad. somme de trois cents mille livres dans les délais susmarqués led. S. Gillon a engagé la foi publique dud. Etats et a affecté et hipotequé généralement tous ses biens, domaines et possessions et revenus et les siens propres présents et avenir solidairement.

Art. 12.

Led. S. Gillon en son propre et privé nom a promis et s'est obligé de faire ratifier le présent traité par lesd. Etats dans neuf mois à compter de ce jour. sans néanmoins que les défaut de cette ratification pouvant en empêcher l'exécution ; se reservant au surplus lesd. Seigneurs de Luxembourg de faire notifier ces presentes aud. Etat par le Ministre de France près les Etats unis de l'Amérique.

C'est ainsi que le tout a été convenu et arrêté entre les parties qui pour l'exécution des présentes ont élu domicile savoir, led. Seigneur Chevalier de Luxembourg à l'hotel de Montmorency Tingry et led. S. Gillon en la demeure dud. S. Grand rue montmartre paroisse St. Eustache, auxquels lieux, nonobstant, promettant, obligeant chacun à son égard, led. Etat de la Caroline et led. S. Gillon solidairement, Renonçant.

Fait et passé à Paris en l'Etude le trentième jour de may mil sept cent quatre vingt avant midi et ont les parties signé la minute des présentes et deux expéditions qui en ont été faites, sur chacune desquelles trois pièces les parties ont fait apposer le cachet de leurs armes : après quoi chacune a pris et est restée en possession de son expédition, le tout ainsi qu'il est dit en fin de lad. minute demeurée à Me. Semilliard Notaire qui a délivré ces présentes ce jourd'hui Dix fevrier mil sept cent quatre vingt trois.

Scellé
lesd. jour et an.
R. xiij s.

Lambot Semilliard

Suit la teneur de lad. Commission et de l'ampliation du Bon de Sa Majesté.

De la part de Son Excellence

Rawlins Lowndes Ecuyer Président et Commandant en chef de l'Etat de la Caroline méridionale.

À tous les Rois, Princes, États et Potentats Chrétiens ainsi qu'à tous autres que cela peut concerner.

Salut

Attendu que l'Etat de la Caroline méridionale a résolu pour sa plus grande sureté et défense contre les déprédations des ennemis des Etats de l'Amérique, de faire construire ou acheter et équiper trois frégates ou vaisseaux de guerre dans des ports étrangers et que dans ce deſsein il a fait acheter et remettre en Europe des marchandises et effets du produit de son sol et de ses manufactures jusqu'au montant ou à la valeur de cinq-cent mille Pounds, monnoye legale dud. Etat, afin de se mettre en état de traiter dans ces ports étrangers et de completter l'équipement desd. vaisseaux de guerre le plutôt possible; mais d'autant que les risques et dangers de mer aussi bien que l'ennemi peuvent empêcher les envois desd. marchandises de se rendre à bon port à leur destination, ou que les frais et dépenses accumulés de leur transport dans ce tems de guerre, dans le cas de leur arrivée, pourroient réduire le montant de leur net produit à une somme insuffisante pour le service auquel il est destiné, auxquels cas et dans l'un ou l'autre de ceux exprimés, les intentions de l'Etat pourroient souffrir des délais considérables, ou être deçues entièrement, le pouvoir législatif de l'Etat de la Caroline méridionale, à l'effet de pourvoir aux moyens de remplir les bonnes vues et deſseins dud. Etat, ainsi que d'en aſsurer l'exécution en effectuant l'équipement desd. frégates et leur expédition avec la plus grande célérité a déterminé dans sa séance tenue le vingt huitième jour du mois de mars dernier, que la foi publique dud. Etat soit, comme elle est engagée par les présentes pour le remboursement à une certaine Epoque du Capital et interêts des sommes d'argent quelconques qui pourront être empruntées en Europe pour suppléer ou remplir le vide ou deficit qui pourra se trouver dans celle accordée pour l'équipement des trois frégates à faire construire ou acheter pour le service dud. Etat.

Or je vous fais savoir que d'après l'avis du Conseil privé de cet état, j'ai nommé et commis le Commodore Alexander Gillon pour négocier en faveur de cet état avec toutes puissances et Etats étrangers ou avec leurs sujets, un emprunt suffisant pour remplir l'entier montant du deficit qui pourra se trouver dans la susd. somme de Cinq cent mille Pounds accordée à l'effet de procurer lesd. frégates, et la foi publique de cet état est engagée par les présentes à rembourser à toutes puissances, Etats, Compagnies ou individus étrangers, toutes et chacune des sommes d'argent qui pourront être prises à titre d'emprunt par led. Commodore Alexander Gillon pour le dessein ci-dessus spécifié, de même que les interêts desd. sommes, conformément aux termes et conditions convenus et stipulés entre les prêteurs et susd. Alexander Gillon qui seront exprimés et déclarés d'une manière particulière par un écrit signé de sa main et scellé de son cachet, lequel dit écrit muni de la signature et du sceau dud. Commodore obligera désormais en tout tems cet état à en accomplir le contenu conformément à sa teneur et aux conditions et conventions qui y seront spécifiés.

En témoignage de quoi, j'ai signé ci dessous de ma main et fait apposer le grand sceau dud. Etat. à Charles Town le Dix septième jour de Juillet l'an du seigneur mil sept cent soixante dix huit, signé Lowndes. Plus bas est écrit par ordre de Son Excellence, signé. Jn huger Sécrétaire

Au dos sont les trois légalisations qui suivent.

Je certifie par les présentes que la signature des pouvoirs ci inclus donnés par l'assemblée et Conseil d'Etat de la Caroline du Sud au Commodore Alexandre Gillon Ecuyer est de la main et écriture de Son Excellence Rawlins Lowndes Ecuyer Président dud. Etat de la Caroline du Sud et que le sceau qui y est attaché est réellement le sceau dud. Etat, et qu'en conséquence foi doit être ajoutée aud. pouvoirs.

Donné à Passy près Paris le vingt septième jour de Septembre mil sept cent soixante dix neuf. signé B. franklin Ministre plénipotentiaire des Etats unis de l'Amérique septentrionale à la Cour de france.

Je certifie que la signature des pouvoirs ci-inclus donnés par l'assemblée et Conseil des Etats de la Caroline du sud au Commodore alexandre Gillon Ecuyer est de l'écriture de Son excellence Rawlins Lowndes Ecuyer Président dud. Etat de la Caroline du sud, et que le sceau qui y est attaché est réellement le sceau dud. Etat et que foi doit être ajoutée aud. pouvoirs.

Donné à Paris le vingt neuvieme jour de Septembre mil sept cent soixante dix neuf et scellé du cachet de mes armes signé Arthur Lée Commissaire plénipotentiaire du Congrès des Etats unis de l'Amérique.

Je certifie par les présentes que la signature des pouvoirs ci inclus donnés par l'assemblée et Conseil de l'Etat de la Caroline du Sud au Commodore Gillon Ecuyer est de la main et écriture de son Excellence Rawlins Lowndes Ecuyer, Président dud. Etat de la Caroline du Sud, et que le sceau qui y est attaché est réellement le sceau dud. Etat et qu'en conséquence foi doit être ajoutée auxd. pouvoirs.

Donné à Francfort sur le Mein en Allemagne sous ma signature et le sceau de mes armes ce dix octobre mil sept cent soixante dix neuf signé W. Lée Commissaire du Congrès des Etats unis de l'Amérique septentrionale.

Nous Michel Julien Mathieu de Lépidor ancien Secrétaire Interprete du Roi aux affaires étrangères certifions la copie ci dessus conforme aux originaux en langue angloise à moi representés et rendus. à Paris ce vingt neuf mai mil sept cent quatre vingt signé Mathieu de Lépidor avec paraphe.

En marge de lad. traduction est écrit
Controllé à Paris le trente mai mil sept cent quatre vingt reçu quatorze sols signé Lezan avec paraphe.

Le Chevalier de Luxembourg —
Supplie votre Majesté de vouloir bien lui accorder pour

trois ans la propriété du Vaisseau l'Indien avec ses canons, voiles et agrets; s'engageant de le faire sortir du port d'Amsterdam et de l'armer sans demander des matelots, et sans pouvoir prétendre à aucun dédommagement en cas qu'il ne puisse pas le faire sortir du port, ou qu'il arrive des avaries au Vaisseau. Il espere aussi des bontés de Votre Majesté qu'il lui sera permis d'acheter le vaisseau les trois années expirées si les campagnes dans lesquelles il sera engagé ne sont pas finies. Le Chevalier de Luxembourg ose d'autant plus faire cette demande à Votre Majesté, qu'elle sera aussi avantageuse à l'Etat qu'elle pourra l'être à sa fortune.

Ici est écrit de la main du Roi: Bon.

Pour Ampliation du Bon de sa Majesté,
A Versailles ce premier mars mil sept cent quatre vingt. signé De Sartine

Il est ainsi es originaux desd. traduction et ampliation signés, paraphés et demeurés annexés à la minute du traité dont expédition est des autres parts le tout étant en la possession dud. Me Semilliard Notaire.

Scellé
led. jour et an.
R. 64.

Lambot   Semilliard

Pardevant les Conseillers du Roi

Notaires au Châtelet de Paris soussignés

Fut présent

Très haut, très puissant et très illustre Seigneur Anne-Paul-Emmanuel Sigismond de Montmorency Prince de Luxembourg, premier Baron Chrétien de France, Brigadier des armées du Roi demeurant en l'hotel de Montmorency-Tingry, rue de varenne paroisse St. Sulpice.

Lequel a fait et constitué son procureur général et spécial M. Ferdinand Grand Banquier à Paris et lui a donné pouvoir de pour lui et en son nom faire rendre compte au S. Alexandre Gillon, Commodore de la Marine de la Caroline du Sud, faisant l'un des Etats unis de l'Amérique Septentrionale, de toutes les prises qui ont été faites, de tous les fonds de rançons qui ont pu être reçus et généralement de tous les bénéfices et avantages qui ont pu être faits et remportés sur les ennemis par led. S. Gillon avec le vaisseau l'Indien, appartenant au Roi qui a eu la bonté d'en accorder la jouissance pendant trois ans aud. Seigneur constituant, lequel a cédé et abandonné cette jouissance pour le même tems aud. Etat de la Caroline du Sud suivant le traité passé devant Me. Feuilliard l'un des Notaires soussignés et son confrere le trente mai mil sept cent quatre vingt aux prix charges et conditions y exprimées; étant observé par led. Seigneur constituant que led. S. Gillon en prenant le Commandement dud. Vaisseau a surnommé ce Vaisseau, la Caroline du Sud et qu'il a été pris depuis peu par les anglois.

faire par led. S. procureur constitué rentrer en france dans les ports qui seront les plus convenables, à sa consignation, toutes lesd. prises ainsi que les fonds desd. rançons, et dans le cas où il se trouveroit des obstacles à ces envois et rentrées en france, faire rendre compte de l'objet de ces prises et rançons ou de leur produit aux personnes auxquelles elles ont pu être adressées, former auxd. comptes des débats s'il est jugé nécessaire, s'en départir, allouer toutes provisions, dépenses et autres frais relatifs à l'expédition ou à la vente desdits objets, accorder les recettes, clore et arrêter lesd. comptes en fixer les reliquats et les recevoir.

Proceder d'après les conventions portées audit Traité, aux partage et division du produit net desd. prises ainsi que des fonds desd. rançons, le tout à raison d'un quart pour led. Seigneur constituant dans led. produit net, se faire remettre et délivrer les fonds et objets qui composeront led. quart, en donner toutes décharges à qui il appartiendra.

Attendu que led. Vaisseau a été pris par les anglois toucher et recevoir en conformité de ce qui a été prévu par l'article dix dud. traité, soit dud. Etat de la Caroline du Sud, soit dud. S. Commodore Gillon, ou même de tous autres qu'il appartiendra, la somme de Trois cent mille livres, que led. S. Gillon a obligé led. état en vertu des pouvoirs qu'il en avoit et qu'il s'en obligé solidairement en son nom personnel comme ayant garanti l'exécution et accomplissement des dispositions dud. traité, de payer aud. seigneur constituant entre les mains et sur la quittance dud. S. Grand, dans le cours du tems qui à compter de l'époque de la prise dud. vaisseau, resteroit à expirer desd. trois années de jouissance sous l'engagement de la foy publique dud. Etat et sous l'affectation et hipotèque solidaire, non seulement de tous les biens, domaines, possessions et revenus dud. Etat, mais encore des biens personnels leurs présents et avenir, de tous reçus donner bonnes et valable décharge.

Faire par led. S. procureur constitué pour parvenir aux recouvrements susmentionnés et les assurer telles diligences que led. S. procureur constitué jugera convenables; poursuivre l'exécution dud. traité en tels lieux et endroits qu'il appartiendra en se conformant aux loix maritimes pour toutes les opérations qui pourront être à faire, tant en vertu de ce même traité que des présentes; faire même notifier led. traité, si fait n'a été à l'Etat de la Caroline du Sud; s'il convient former toutes demandes, deffendre à celles qui seront faites, plaider, opposer, appeller, élire domicile, constituer procureurs et avocats, les révoquer en constituer d'autres obtenir tous jugements, sentences, ordonnances et arrêts que besoin sera, les mettre à exécution, faire toutes saisies-arrets, oppositions et autres empêchements, en donner mainlevée, preter tous consentements.

Faire procéder à toutes ventes des objets provenant desd. prises, recevoir toutes sommes qui pourront en revenir aud. Seigneur constituant et en donner toutes quittances.

Traiter et transiger sur toutes instances et contestations nées et à naitre, passer et signer tous actes.

Substituer aux pouvoirs ci-dessus telles personnes que led. S. procureur constitué jugera à propos, les révoquer, en substituer d'autres et généralement faire ce qui conviendra aux interets dud. Seigneur constituant qui promet avoir le tout pour agréable, Obligeant.

Scellé
led. jour et an.
R. bys

Fait et passé à Paris en l'hotel dud. Seigneur constituant l'an mil sept cent quatre vingt trois le Dix février et a signé la minute des présentes demeurée aud. Me. Semilliard Notaire.

Lambot

Semilliard

Et le Vingt huit Mars aud. an Mil

Mil Sept cent quatrevingt trois Est comparu devant
les Notaires à Paris Soussignés.

Le d. Sr. Ferdinand Grand Banquier à Paris demt.
rue Montmartre paroisse St. Eustache.

Lequel, en vertu du pouvoir de Substituer inséré dans
la procuration dont l'expédition est cy contre et des autres parts,
à par ces présentes substitué en son lieu et place M. Edouard
Bancroft de West field+, Docteur en medecine et membre de la
Société Royale de Londres, demeurant actuellement a Chaillot
près Paris et lui a conféré et transmis tous les pouvoirs
qui lui ont été donnés par le d. Seigneur Prince de
Luxembourg par la d. procuration, promettant avouer
tout ce que le d. S. Bancroft fera en vertu tant de la d.
procuration que du present acte de Substitution, obligeant.

Fait et passé à Paris en la demeure du d. Sieur
Grand les d. jour et an, et a Signé la minute des
présentes étans en marge de la procuration dont expé=
=dition est des autres parts le tout demeuré à Me.
Semilliard Notaire.

+ dans l'Etat de
Massachusetts Bay
en Amerique
septentrionale

Scellé
led. jour et an
R. 6y.

Lambot

Semilliard

Anne Gabriel henry Bernard De
Boulainvilliers Chevalier Marquis De
Boulainvilliers Comte de Terride Baron de
Monfouriault Vicomte de Gimois Seigneur de

Saintrain Bernene Monbequi La Bourguere Glisolles Passy Mongeroy Et autres Lieux. Conseiller du Roy En tous Ses Conseils Prevot de La ville Prevoté Et vicomté de Paris Conservateur des privileges Royaux de L'université Lieutenant pour Sa Majesté au Gouvernement de La province de l'isle de france Grand Croix hon.re de Son ordre Royal Et Militaire de Saint-Louis. Certifions a tous qu'il appartiendra que Mrs Semilliard Et Lambot qui ont signés Lacte des autres parts sont conseillers du Roy Notaires En son Chatelet de Paris Et que foy est ajoutée tant en jugement que dehors a tous ceux qu'ils signent En cette qualité En Temoin de quoy Nous avons delivré Ces présentes Signées de Notre Main contre Signées par notre Secretaire Ordinaire Et auxquelles nous avons fait apposer Le Sceau de Nos Armes. donné En Notre hotel a Paris Le onze Avril mil Sept cent quatre vingt Trois./

Le M. De Boulainvilliers

Par Monseigneur

Deny

Nous ſouſsigné Ministre Plenipotentiaire des Etats Unis de l'Amerique près sa Majeſté très Chretienne, Certiſions à tous ceux qu'il appartiendra que les Sieurs Lambot et Semillard qui ont signés l'acte cy joint, sont Notaires au Chatelet de Paris et que foy eſt ajoutée tant en Jugement que dehors à tous ceux qu'ils signent en cette Qualité. — Certiſions de plus que M. le Chevalier de Luxembourg dont il eſt fait mention dans le dit Acte, ſe nomme maintenant le Prince de Luxembourg.

En foi de quoi Nous avons signé le préſent pour ſervir et valoir ce que de beſoin. En notre Hotel à Paſsy ce 9. Juin 1783.

B Franklin

Will Mr Lee give an old Friend leave without ceremony, to take advantage of the opportunity which suddenly occurrs, of assuring him of his unalterable Friendship & Attachment, apart from every Political View or Apprehension. Mr Dunning & Col. Barré desire to be included in the same assurances, & Ld Shelburne hopes Mr Lee will always remember that he has left a Society in England who have many obligations to return to him, whenever he pleases to command them—

Shelburne House 2d June
1780

Lorta.

A Versailles le 3. Juin 1780.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'ecrire le 29. du mois passé.

Je vous donnerois très volontiers une lettre pour le Gouverneur de la Martinique afin de faciliter votre passage aux Etats Unis, si vous ne pouviez pas vous y rendre directement; mais il se presente une occasion qui, je pense, vous paroitra preferable; c'est celle de la fregate l'Alliance qui ne tardera pas à être en etat d'appareiller avec un autre Batiment que le Roi prête aux Etats Unis, et qui sera egalement aux ordres de M. Paul Jones. Si cet arrangement vous convient, vous voudrez bien en ecrire à M. Francklin, afin

M. Arthur Lée.
ancien Député des Etats Unis à L'orient. /.

qu'il donne ses ordres en conséquence.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec la plus parfaite considération, Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant Serviteur

No. 1. Copy of a Letter from the Honorable Benjn Franklin Esqr Minister plenipotentiary from the United States of America directed to the Venerable Captain Landais late Commander of the Alliance at L'Orient dated at Passy the 7th of June 1780.

Sir

I received yours of the 29th past and after the manner in which you quitted the Ship, my clear and positive refusal of replacing you contained in mine of March 12th. and my furnishing you with a Considerable Sum to enable you to go to America for a Trial I am surprised to find you at L'Orient when I thought you had long since been on your Voyage, and to be told that you had been waiting ever Since for my Orders to retake the Command of "the Alliance" when I had never before heard of your being there, or given you the least expectation of the Kind. the whole affair between us will be laid before our Superiors who will judge justly of the Consistency and propriety of your Conduct and of mine; I wave therefore any further dispute with you. But I charge you not to meddle with the Command of the Alliance or create any disturbance on board her as you will answer the Contrary at your Peril.

I am Sir

Yours &c.

We hereby Certify that the above letter is a true Copy of a Copy, sent from Captain Jones to Captn Parke while at L'Orient

Boston 26th Augt 1780.

Jas Warren Junr
Fitch Pool

My dear Sir [No 329] [illegible]ell June 27th 1780

I can[illegible] forgive myself for not laying hold [illegible] first Opportunity which offered of shewi[illegible] that the Attempts of your Enemies [illegible] ure your Reputation had no Effect on me. This I could have assured you even before I received your Vindication which every unprejudiced Person looked on as full & compleat. You may be assured that I should have written you much oftener than I have had I not been informed that you intended to return to Virginia, indeed it has been said that you were arrived at Boston. I have determined however to wait no longer in Expectation of seeing you, but have resolved ~~[illegible]~~ to write a few Lines by the French Ships now lying at York [illegible] very anxious to convince you [illegible] [illegible] has not been owing to a [illegible] in my Opinion [illegible] for [illegible] sincere Regard & Affection for [illegible] [illegible] of your

Abilities & Integrity. I [illegible] the more anxious to write by this Opportunity as I make no Doubt several good Conveyances have occurred [illegible] have escaped me whilst I was engaged so closely as I was in public & private Business, which had been greatly encreased by the Care I have had of five of my [illegible] Children since the Death of poor Mr Burwell & the Settlement of his confused Affairs – but since my Resignation of my Seat at the Council Board which I made on the Removal of the [illegible] of Government [illegible] Richmond where I was unable to attend, I have had more Leisure to write ~~[illegible]~~ & my Frien[illegible] I am determined, if you will inform me where to direct my Letters to make you full amends for my long Silence –

On the Receipt of each of your Letters mentio[illegible] your Advance of Money for this Sta[illegible]ing your Acc. against it, I constantly laid [illegible]e & Acc.ts before the Board, but could [illegible] Order for a Remitt[illegible] but through [illegible] against which you had [illegible]skin &

Mr. Jefferson on [illegible] subject, since his
appointment of [illegible] thinks with me
that you were [illegible] hardly dealt with
& I believe ha[illegible] all he could
to obtain satis[illegible]tion for you.
As to Mr. H. F. [illegible] the Board had
the strongest circ[illegible]stantial Proofs that
he left Virg.a di[illegible]tisfied with the
American Cause [illegible] that he went volun-
tarily on Boar[illegible] the St. Albans british
Ship of War in Hampton Road. It appears
that after the Bat[illegible] of Brandywine he
quitted the Army where he had acted
as Chaplain to a Carolina Reg.t & returned
to Virg.a where he wrote & spoke against
the Measures of Government, associated
with Tories & d[illegible]th went on Board
the St. Albans [illegible]s also charged
(but this was [illegible] well supported)
with [illegible] concerned with
a gang of [illegible] in N. Carolina

{No 329} {No 329}

John Page Rosewell Jany 7th 1780.

These Things [illegible] of him
to Arthr Lee Esqr
obsert the Sci[illegible] received a Copy
of one of your [illegible] signed by him
as your Secretar[illegible] have greatly
alarmed to find [illegible] friend imposed
himself upon [illegible] friend to our
Cause of the Gov[illegible] informed Congress of it.
I confess I was af[illegible] then that he
would betray all [illegible] Secrets but I
am apt to suspect [illegible] now that he had
been led by his [illegible]ity to join
the English after [illegible] the Battle of Brandywine
& to rejoin us [illegible] the Success at
Saratoga were [illegible] promised by the French
Alliance — I [illegible] you many thanks
my dear Sir for your [illegible] Attention to my
Cousin Wm Page at [illegible] Edinburgh. If you can
prevail on him to [illegible] the bad company
he is in & come [illegible] France & return to
his Friends you [illegible] infinitely oblige them.
Be pleased to pres[illegible] my best wishes
to your Brother [illegible] & believe me
to be dear Sir [illegible] affectionately —
P.S. I have just received [illegible] John Page
Surrender of Cha[illegible]

Rosewell June ye 7th 1780

My dear Sir

I can scarcely forgive myself for not laying hold of the first Opportunity which offered of shewing you that the Attempts of your Enemies [to] injure your Reputation had no Effect on me. this I could have assured you even before I received your Vindication, which every unprejudiced Person looked on as full & compleat - You may be assured that I should have written to you much oftener than I have had I not been informed [that] you intended to return to Virginia [in]deed it has been said that you were arrived at Boston - I have determined however [to] wait no longer in Expectation of seeing you, but have resolved to write a few Lines by the french Ships now lying at York. [torn] very anxious to convince you [torn] Silence has not been owing to [torn] in my Opinion of you for I [torn] sincere Regard & affection [torn] of your Abilities & Integrity. I am the more anxious to write by this Opportunity as I make no Doubt se[ver]al good Conveyances have occurred, which have escaped me whilst I was engaged so closely as I was in public & private Business, which had been greatly encreased by the Care I have had of five of my Sisters Children since the Death of poor Mrs Bunwell, & the Settlement of her confused Affairs - but since my Resignation of my Seat at the Council Board which I made on the Removal of the [sea]t of Government [to] Richmond where I was unable to attend, I have had more Leisure to write to my Friends & am determined, if you will inform me where to direct my Letters to make you full amends for my long silence.

On the Receipt of each of your Letters mentioning your Advance of Money for the Sto[res] [torn]ing your Acc^{t} against it, I constantly laid [torn] & Acc^{t} before the Board: but could [torn] order for a Remittance but through [torn] against which you had [torn] spoken to Mr Jefferson on [torn] Subject, since his appointment & [he thi]nks with me that you were [torn]dly dealt with & I believe ha[s don]e all he could to obtain Satisf[ac]tion for you -

As to Mr H. F[ord] the Board had the strongest Circumstantial Proofs that he left Virg^{a} di[ssa]tisfied with the American Cause [&] that he went voluntarily on Board the St Albans british Ship of War in Hampton Road. It appears that after the Ba[ttl]e of

Brandywine, he quitted the Army [w]here he had acted as Chaplain to a [N. C]arolina Reg^{t}, & returned to Virg^{a}. where he [wr]ote & spoke against the Measures of [gover]nment, associated with Tories & [torn] went on Board the S^{t}. Albans. [He i]s also charged (but this was [not a]s well supported) with having [torn]eemed with a gang of [torn]in N. Carolina. These things [torn, illegible] against him about the time [?] [tha]t I received a Copy of one of your [torn] copyed by him as your Secretary [torn]were greatly alarmed to find th[at h]e had imposed himself upon you as a Friend to our Cause. The Govr. informed Congress of it. I confess I was afraid then, that he would betray all [of] our Secrets, but I am apt to suspect now that he had been led by his P[usi]llaminity to join the English after the Battle of Brandywine & to rejoin us after our Successes at Saratoga were [cr]owned by the french Alliance - I return you many thanks my dear Sir for your kind Attention to my Cousin Wm Page at Edinburgh. If you can prevail on him to[qu]it the bad Company he is in & come [torn] France & return to his Friends you [torn] oblige them. Be pleased to pres[ent] [torn] Love & best Wishes to your Brother [torn]& believe me to dear Sir [torn] [A]ffectionately -

P.S. I have just received [torn] John Page surrender of Charleston [torn, illegible].

[illegible] 9 · 1780

[illegible]

[illegible] Mr. [illegible] Report [illegible] your [illegible]

[illegible] to adopt the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Delegates [illegible]

[illegible] as far

[illegible] Necessity [illegible] Requisition, and

[illegible] Power [illegible] Many

[illegible] to buy

[illegible] Dollar

[illegible] 33 1/3 [illegible]

[illegible] Duties

[illegible] Marriage

[illegible] at War

[illegible] Many of the

[illegible] Number of

[illegible] Necessity for the

[illegible] Delegates [illegible]

[illegible] they did

Congress [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] different Ideas

[illegible]

[illegible] House

[illegible] Plan [illegible] New Bill

[illegible]

[illegible] South of this

[illegible] by Taxes,

State to redeem their [illegible]

agreeable to the original promise. both these
Clauses were expunged by the Senate before
[illegible] full [illegible] last session & equal
[illegible] [illegible] likewise [illegible]
[illegible] under [illegible] the Senate
about [illegible] suspended.
[illegible] [illegible] for two
the Delegates [illegible] who have [illegible] for
Congress for [illegible] they [illegible]
[illegible] Debts, [illegible] [illegible]
Compensation among
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
that [illegible] [illegible] Treasury — [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] which
[illegible] [illegible] States [illegible]
[illegible] the letter
[illegible] relative to the
[illegible] Plan of [illegible] what is gone by
[illegible] [illegible] Pennsylvania has agreed
[illegible] [illegible] States are
have [illegible] Majority of the
[illegible] [illegible] of knowing
[illegible] [illegible] was the
[illegible] [illegible] by you have
Opinion of the Committee [illegible]
Continental [illegible] Bankruptcy
[illegible] approve of the [illegible]
[illegible] your State keep its faith
by Congress [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] by the Committee of the States
[illegible] [illegible] impossible
to raise [illegible] Dollars called for by the
[illegible] Million [illegible] of May. without you
Requisition of the 27th of [illegible] Resolve
[illegible] do in Congress [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] the Insurrection [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] ten Days. [illegible]
[illegible] Hope [illegible]

are informed by Mr. Rutledge, that Charles Town
was safe on Wednesday. I still tremble
for that City.

I shall ever be ready to render You
any Services in my power. I am glad for
the Sake of our Cause, that You are in your
Assembly. I wish to promote a Union
and Friendship between your State & this,
and wish You to communicate any Intelligence
with You, & I will always give You
any Information in my Power. I beg to
be remembered to your Brother & other friends
and Your Lady, be assured that I am, with Sincerity,
affectionate and
Your obed. Servt
Saml Chase

Mr West desires his
Compliments.

Do you know, that the Resolve for the
Continental [illegible] to March, the [illegible], that
there were only [illegible] States affirmative,
five for, & some agt. the Measure —
our State divided & three unrepresented

Free

The Honorable Richard H. Lee Esquire

at Richmond

Virginia

Free Sw. D [illegible]

Militia tenths
persons [illegible]

500
500
798.16
798.11
670.2
3267.14

(No 56.)

S. Chase

Annapolis, June,9, 1780

Dear Sir/

We have various reports that your assembly have refused to adopt the Resolution of Congress of 10^{t} of March, relative to their Emissions. Our House of Delegates at their last Session in April agreed from necessity, that they would comply as far as in their Power, with the Requisition, and thinking it impracticable to call in the Mony by Taxes, they, to induce the Holders to bring in the Bills, voluntairly, offered one Dollar of the New Emissions, for every 33% brought in, & they funded the new, Emissions on Duties on Imports & exports, other Rates as [illegible] & ordinary [illegible], & an annual tax at Nov. session to make up the Defienncy - Many of the Delagates were dissatisfied with the Resolves of Congress, they did not see the Necessity for the Measure, but now apprehensive if they did not comply in some Way, the whole War would cease. the Senate entertained a different Idea. They thought the Plan wise & just - Our House proposed two Clauses - one to make the New Bills a Tender - the other a copledge the faith of this State to redeem their Emissions, & Loan, by taxes, agreeable to the original promises. both these Clauses were reprobated by the Senate, & for the first of Sentiment [illegible] prevails about [illegible] tender law. The Senate desires it to be immediately Suspended. The Delagates [illegible] a provision for two [illegible] for those who have received for old Debts, to pay as far as they [illegible] by Compensation among their Creditors. 2nd. that Debtors to [illegible] Creditors be [illegible] to pay [illegible] the Treasury - Those Subjects a[re] to be reviewed by our assembly, which [illegible]. It is said the [Eastern] States have [torn] agreed to the plan of Congress relative to the Emissions. I have not heard what is done by New York or Jersey. Pennsylvania has assented on Condition that a Majority of the States ace[ed] to the Measure, I am desirous of hearing [the] opinion of your Assembly. How far was the Continental Currency a Tender by your laws.will you State approve of the Bankruptcy by Congress? Will your State keep its faith as to its Emissions and Loans?

It is proposed by the Committee of Ways & Means to [illegible] to raise immediately our proportion of the 10 Million of Dollars called for by the Requisition of the 19th of May. what will your assembly do in Consequence of this Resolve?

You may expect the French fleet and troops, in a Week or ten days. We are informed by NVL. Rutledge, that Charles town was [illegible]. I still have fears for that City.

I shall ever be ready to render you any Services in my power. I am glad for the Sake of our Cause, that you are in your Assembly. I wish to promote a Union and Friendship between your State & this, and wish You to communicate any Intelligence with You. & I will always give you any Information in my Power. I beg to be remembered to your Brother & other Friends and you may be assured that I am

with Sincerety,
Your affectionate and
Obedt. Servt.

Samuel Chase

Mr. West desires his
Compliments

Do you know when the Resolve for the Continental Bankruptcy, 10 March, passed, that there were but ten States represented, five for, & for agt. the Measure. our State divided-three unrepresented.

No 4 Extract of a letter from his Excellency Dr Franklin Esquire American Minister at the Court of Versailles to C. Jones Commander of the Alliance Frigate at L'Orient dated Passy June 12th 1780. ——

Dear Sir,

"Saturday morning last I received a letter signed by about 115 Men belonging to the Alliance, declaring that they would not raise the Anchor nor depart from L'Orient, till they had six months wages paid them, and the utmost farthing of their Prize money including the Ships sent into Norway and untill their legal Captain P. Landais is restored to them: This mutiny has undoubtedly been excited by that Captain, probably making them believe that satisfaction has been received for these Norway prizes delivered up to the English, which he knows is not true; the Court of Denmark not having yet resolved to give us a Shilling on that account. That he has been concerned in that Mutiny he has been foolish enough to furnish us with Proofs, the Sailors Letter being not only inclosed under a Cover directed to me in his hand Writing ~~being not only inclosed under cover directed~~ but he has also in the same writing interlined the words "their legal Captain P. Landais" which happens to contain his Signature: I went immediately to Versailles to demand the Assistance of Government, and on shewing the letter by which his Guilt plainly appeared, an Order was immediately granted and sent away the same evening for apprehending and imprisoning him, and Orders was given at the same time to the Port to afford you all kind of Assistance. ——

Then

When an advance of Prize money was ordered it was supposed the Vessells might have been got away without waiting for the Sale, and that the People who had a right to share them receiving this in part to relieve their present necessities, might have appointed some Agent to receive & remit the rest to them in America; but the Delays have been so great that the time of Sale now approaches, and perhaps the produce may be known before you can be ready to Depart with the two Ships (Alliance & Ariel) and if ready money is paid the Division may be made at once." —

We hereby Certify that the above letter is a true Copy of a Copy sent from Capt. Jones to Capt. Parke while at L'Orient —

Jas Warren Junr

Fitch Pool

Boston 26th Augt 1780.

June 12 1780
Franklin to J P Jones
115 men of the Alliance
will not sail without
their Prize money
and their legal Captain
Landais.

Arthur Lee to Capt. John. Paul Jones —

L'Orient June. 13. 1780 —

Sir —

When you shewed me yesterday the authorities under which you conceived you had a right to command the Alliance Frigate, I told you it was not in my power to give you an opinion upon them without seeing those of Capt. Landais; and that I would not give an

Opinion

in this matter, but in writing. Since that, I have seen the authorities of Capt. Landais, and I now shall state them both with my opinion upon them, which I hope may be of use in preventing any farther contest which cannot but be disgraceful and injurious to the service as well as those who are in the wrong—

The authorities you shewed me, consisted of a Commission from Congress appointing you a Captain in the Marine of the United States, and a late order from Dr. Franklin to you to take command of the Alliance and carry her where she is ordered by the Admiralty. This order from Dr. Franklin does not recite or allege any power from Congress to take the command from Capt. Landais and put another in his place—

The authorities Capt. Landais laid before me were a commission from Congress, like yours, appointing him Captain in the service; a resolve of Congress giving him the command of the Alliance Frigate, and a letter of instruction for that purpose from the Marine Committee

From these documents, it is clear, beyond a possibility of doubt that Capt. Landais commands that ship under the full, direct, and express order of Congress; And that no such [redacted] authority appears to dismiss him from the command. In this situation, Capt. Landais must answer at his peril for the Frigate entrusted to him till he receives an order of Congress to deliver her to another. If any such order exists, those who have it do infinite wrong to the service in not producing it, to prevent any disturbance. If there is no such order, the Subjects of the United States who attempt to divest Capt. Landais of the command he holds from the sovereign power, or to disturb him by violence in the exercise of it, commit a high crime against the Laws and sovereignty of the United States and subject themselves to a proportionable punishment

This, Sir, is my opinion founded upon a cool and candid examination of the authorities on both sides, which alone ought to determine our judgment and our actions You are at liberty to show this letter to whom you please or to send it to Dr. Franklin. Should it prevail upon you to urge this matter no farther till you know whether there is authority of Congress for what you are doing, I shall think I have rendered no less service to you personally, in preventing you from committing a rash and illegal action, than to the public the honor of which must be committed by such a contest in a foreign port - When I see such things threatened, my duty to my country and love of Law and Order, call upon me to do whatever is in my power to prevent it -

I have the honor to be, with much esteem
Sir, your most obdt and humle Servt
Arthur Lee -

No. 2. — Copy of a Letter from the Honorable Benjamin Franklin Esqr. Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America to Captain Peter Landais dated at Versailles the 16th. of June 1780. ——

Sir

I am much Surprized to learn that you have contrary to the express orders Contained in mine of the 7th. instant taken upon yourself the Command of the Alliance Frigate. I do hereby repeat those Orders and charge you to quit the Ship immediately. ——

I am Sir
Your humble Servant
Sign'd B. Franklin

No. 3. — Copy of a letter from the Honorable Benjn. Franklin Esqr. Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America to the Officers & Seamen of the Allia. Frigate dated at Versailles the 16th of June 1780. —

Gentlemen,

Having judged it for the Service of the United States to appoint Commodore Jones to the

Command

Command of the Alliance in her present intended Voyag to America. I do hereby direct you to obey him as your Captain, until further orders shall be given by the Honorable Congress.

I am

Gentlemen

Your Friend

and humble Servant

Signed B Franklin

We hereby Certify that the two foregoing letters are true Copies of Copies sent from Captain Jones to Capt Parke while at L'Orient.

oston 26th Augt. 1780.

Jas Warren Junr

Fitch Pool

directs the Office
ance Frigate
ey Capt Jones

Arthur Lee Esqr L'Orient 18 June 780

Sir

You were desirous of being informed of the particulars, respecting a petition, addressed to His Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esqr Plenipotentiary of the United States of America at the Court of Versailles for obtaining the Prize Ship Called the Serapis from the King of France

Having been a Subscriber to it myself, you have undoubtedly reason to expect a circumstantial detail of the affair; But, as I was induced to sign it more through complasance to Capt Jones, than any expectation, or desire of succeeding in it; I did not pay so much attention as to enable me to give you a very particular clear account.

On my arrival at L'Orient I waited upon Capt Jones who I found accompanied with Mr

[illegible] Dr Bancroft. & two of his warrant

i was a pat

handed to Mr Wharton by Dr Bancroft, who recommended him to subscribe to it, as a Gentleman whose importance might have great weight; which he accordingly did. It was then presented to me, by the same person to sign; I just run it over, the purport of which, was, to petition Dr Franklin to request the favor of His Most Christian Majesty to confer on the United States America, the Prize Ship Serapis taken by ~~the~~ The Bon homme Richard commanded by Capt Jones. I do not recollect it being offered to any other Gentleman in the Room while I was there.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest Respect
your most Hble Servt.
Joseph Brown Junr

Sir, L'Orient June 25th 1780

The resolution you declard yesterday of not sailing till the prise money was paid has given me so much uneasineſs as well on your account as on that of the Public; that I cannot help stating to you on Paper my reasons for thinking that you ought not to delay sailing one moment after the wind will permit.

It is manifest from the expreſs order sent for the immediate return of the frigate, that she is wanted in America; & she contains so valuable a Cargoe that every moments delay or unneceſsary risque of it is a public injury. Then the attainment of what you are waiting for is so distant & uncertain even in your own opinion, that you might make a voyage to America & return before there is a probability of the matter being decided. I suppose the Ship & Cargoe under your care are of two millions st value to the Public. Your stay especially in such an exposed situation risques these for a precarious expectation of 50 thousand for yourselves. Add to this that the former is a public, the latter a private object, which should never be preferd.

It is certainly laudable in you to endeavor to have justice done to the Officers & men under your command; but it is as assuredly culpable to sacrifice the essential interests of the public to that pursuit. Nor will any thing justify an Officer for disobeying his orders, but the impossibility of executing them.

The desire of the Officers & Crew to return to their native Country, prevails at present over the wish of obtaining their prize money. ~~But~~ who can answer how long that disposition will continue? If you stay here, you must ~~either~~ let them come on shore, & expose them to involve themselves in new debts, & to be acted upon by the arts & suggestions of those who are watching every opportunity of seducing them, & disturbing the harmony on board. To avoid this you must run into the opposite evil of confining them on board, which will inevitably soon produce ill-humours & discontent, upon which your Enemies will contrive, in spight of every precaution you can take, to improve so as infinitely to embarrass if not totally stop your proceedings. It is in the power of those who wish you ill, & would be happy to see you incur blame ~~by sacrificing the public to private views, however inconvenient~~, to delay the payment of the prize money & you are furnishing them the strongest of all inducements to do this, because they know it will delay, embarrass, & bring ~~blame~~ censure upon you. And this they may do without its being possible for you to obtain proofs that it is ~~of their being~~ their fault. They your delay will [illegible] give the pleasure to yr. Enemies, saying with every appearance of truth that your taking the command has prevented the return of the frigate, detaind the Supplies, & thrown every thing into confusion

As to the justice due to the People of the Alliance, it appears to be a strange way of repairing the injuries they have suffered from being so long detaind in Europe & not having their prize-money paid; to detain them still longer, & be the means of delaying the payment still [illegible] more. [illegible] Especially as they cannot get the payment of their wages till they return to America, & that one month's cruise upon their own coast, would not only do great service to the public, but obtain prizes for them of which they would be sure to receive the profits, all which they lose by waiting here in expectation of that which it is not [illegible] reasonable to expect

In short, Sir, it appears to me most clear ~~as manifest as the Light by which I write~~, that you are

doing an injury to the public, to the People & th
yourself by your stay.

I shall be much obliged to you
Sir, to let me know your final resolutio
whether it is to stay till the prize money
is paid, or whether you will only wait
a certain time, & then sail whether your
expectations are satisfyd or not.

I have the honor to be with
the greatest esteem, Sir &c

To Captn Peter Landais of the Alliance

June 23. 1780
A Lee to Landais
(Reasons why he
ought not to delay
[illegible] to America
[illegible])

L'Orient June 27th 1780

Honored and dear Sir

I have deferred writing to you since my return to this Kingdome because I had orders myself to return in the Alliance immediately to America; but I was under a necessity of going to Court in person to procure the final sale of the Serapis & our other Prizes; I was received by the King, his Government & People with that open hand Affection that so nobly marks the Character of this generous nation. — His Majesty ordered a superb Sword to be made for me with an inscription on the Blade that would [illegible] honor to the greatest Admiral in History. The King directed his Minister to write a special Letter to the President of Congress expressing in the strongest terms his personal esteem towards me, with his entire approbation of my conduct & particular desire to promote my future services & to see me again at his Court &c. Besides this his Majesty pleased to send a Letter to his Minister M. [illegible] de la Luzerne directing him to ask permission [illegible] me with the Cross of Military merit: an honor that [illegible] a stranger who had not actually served in the Army or Navy of France. — I returned here being charged with the dispatches of Government & having obtained the [illegible] Ship of war to assist with the Alliance in transporting to America the supply of Arms & Clothing that is now here and so much wanted in our Armies. The Luzerne & several other Merchant Vessels with Cargoes amounting to two Millions of Livres were waiting for my Convoy. But to the astonishment of every Person on the 13th of this Month Captain Landais went on board the Alliance while I was on shore with the Commandant of the Marine to take Measures for the dispatch of the Ariel & declared he came to take the command again. I made an immediate application to the Commandant not chusing to have any particular dispute with Capt. Landais after the charges I had given in against him, and for which with the approbation of this Government Doctor Franklin had displaced him seven Months before & given him Money to bear his Expences to America for Tryal. I was advised to send an Express with the Account immediately to Court. — I went up myself and returned in six Days. — I found the Alliance at the entrance

The Honorable
Robert Morris Esqr. &c &c.

of [illegible] and every necessary disposition was made to stop [illegible] out agreeable to the within Documents; but my humanity would not suffer me to remain a silent Witness of Bloodshed between the Allied Subjects [illegible] France & America. My having prevented that Scene of horror has been I am persuaded no small disappoint[illegible] to the wicked Heart and empty Head of Captain Landais two principal Advisers; such a scene would have been an excellent ground of Argument for the Tools of [illegible]land against France. One of these two would great [illegible] will now have [illegible] Carriage, Baggage, and Family transported from hence in the space on board the Alliance that should have been occupied by the Soldiers Clothing; while the Red Ribbon'd Commodore has taken advantage of the [illegible]fusion to inveigle away from the Continental service a number of Sea Men that I had redeemed from English dungeons and [illegible] for three Months on board the Alliance in order to Man the Ariel [illegible] brave Men who were once embarked with me in the Bon homme Richard are now confined as Prisoners in the hold of the Alliance [illegible] with every mark of indignity. I had destined them to compleat the Crew of the Ariel & have demanded them in vain for that purpose. I cannot see where all this will end, but surely it must fall dreadful on the heads of those who have stirred up this [illegible] Mutiny. For my own part I shall make no other remark than that I never directly nor indirectly [illegible] command of the Alliance [illegible] but after having in obedience to Orders Commanded her for seven Months and [illegible] Mr Lee had made a written application to me as Commander of that ship for a Passage to America, I am at a loss what Name to give Mr Lee's late conduct & duplicity in stirring up a Mutiny in favor of a Man who was at first sent to America contrary to Mr Lee's opinion [illegible] Deane & who is actually under Arrest by order of his Sovereign. What gives me the greatest pain is

that after I had obtaind from Government the means
of transporting to America under a good protection
the Arms and Clothing I have already mentiond, Mr
Lee should have found means to defeat my intentions.
I thank God I am of no Party and have no Brothers or
Relations to serve, but I am convinced that Mr Lee
has acted in this matter merely because I would not be-
come the Enemy of the venerable the wise, and good
Franklin, whose Heart as well as Head does and will ever
do honor to human Nature. I know the great and good
in this Kingdom better perhaps than any other American
who has appeard in Europe since the Treaty of Alliance
and if my Testimony could add any thing to Franklins repu-
tation I could witness the universal Veneration & esteem
with which his Name inspires all Ranks not only
[illegible] & all over this Kingdom, but also in Spain and
Holland. And I can add from the testimony of the first
Characters of other Nations that with them Envy itself
is dumb when the Name of Franklin is but mentiond.

You will bear me witness my worthy Friend that I
never askd a favor for myself from Congress, for you have
seen all my Letters, & know that I never sought any
indirect influence, though my ambition to act an
eminent and useful part in this glorious revolution
is unbounded. I pledge myself to you & to America
that my Zeal [illegible] new ardour from the opposition
it meets with, and I ~~[illegible]~~ live but to overcome them
& to prove myself no Mock Patriot, but a true friend
to the rights of human Nature upon principles
of disinterested Philanthropy. Of this I have already
given some proofs, & I will give more. Let not therefore
the virtuous Senate of America be misled by the
insinuations of fallen Ambition. Should any thing
be said to my disadvantage, all I ask is a suspension

I had an [illegible] to appear before Congress
in answer to [illegible]
[illegible] remind [illegible]
[illegible] within my line of duty an
[illegible] The obligations I owe
your friendship and ardently wishing to meet
the approbation of every good American I am

[illegible]
and very humble servant

Jno P Jones

[illegible] to my [illegible] return [illegible]
America [illegible] thanking you
[illegible]

L'Orient 27 June 1780.—

L'Orient June 27th 1780.

Honored Gentlemen,

It has given me the truest pleasure to hear that Congress have at last thought fit to appoint a Board of Admiralty to govern the Navy of America. I have on frequent occasions written to my friends on the subject of such an appointment which has always appeared to me indispensable.

The departure of the Vessels that have till within these few days been waiting to sail under my Convoy is so near that I have not time to give you in this Letter the detail of the late indecent scene here that Mr. Lee has occasioned through Captain Landais. I must therefore beg leave to refer you to my Letter on the Occasion to Mr. Morris, to whom I had the honor to write a previous Letter while he was of the Marine Committee.

You will please to call before you Captain Bell, Captain Montgomery or Captain Smith, either or all of these Gentlemen but especially the first who has been the longest time will be able to give you a particular account of this extraordinary event. Inclosed I send [illegible] with the evidences upon them against Captain

The Honorable
The President and Board of Admiralty
Philadelphia.

[illegible]

[illegible] Commander [illegible]

[illegible] Ball [illegible]

[illegible]

Your most obedient humble servant

[illegible]

a Versailles le 30. Juin 1780

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 22. de ce mois concernant la resolution du Congrès du 18 Mars dernier. Je vous ai déja prévenu que mon intention n'étoit aucunement d'analiser cette resolution en tant qu'elle est relative aux Citoyens des Etats Unis ni d'examiner si les circonstances en legitiment ou non les dispositions: En vous écrivant avec la confiance que j'ai crû devoir à vos lumieres et à votre attachement à l'Alliance, je n'ai eû qu'un objet, celui de vous convaincre que les françois ne devoient pas être confondus avec les Américains et qu'il y auroit une injustice evidente à leur faire éprouver les pertes dont ils sont menacés. Les détails dans lesquels vous avez jugé à propos d'entrer, ne m'ont point fait changer de sentiment; mais je pense que toute diſsension ulterieure entre nous à cet égard seroit superflüe; et je me borne à vous observer que si le conseil du Roi a considéré la résolution du Congrès sous un faux point de vue ainsi que vous le prétendez, M. le Chev.r de la Luzerne qui est sur les lieux ne manquera pas de l'éclairer et que le Congrès de son côté s'il n'adopte pas les représentations que ce Ministre est chargé de lui faire, nous communiquera immanquablement les raisons sur lesquelles il appuiera son refus. Si elles sont bien fondées le Roi les prendra en considération, sa majesté ne demandant rien que la plus exacte justice; mais dans le cas contraire Elle renouvellera ses instances auprès des Etats Unis et elle attendra avec confiance de leur pénétration et de leur sagesse une décision conforme à sa demande. Sa Majesté se persuade d'autant plus que le Congrès y donnera toute son attention qu'elle a sensible ainsi qu'elle en a souvent renouvellé l'assurance, aussi vivement que vous Monsieur l'union qui subsiste entre la France et les Etats unis, et qu'elle sentira certainement que françois peuvent mériter quelque préférence sur les autres nations, qui n'ont aucun traité avec l'Amérique, et qui n'ont pas même encore reconnu son indépendance.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement,

Monsieur, votre très humble et votre très obéissant Serviteur

De Vergennes.

Versailles June

Sir

I did not un[illegible] this day, receive the
which you di[illegible] he honor to write to
the 24. of this month.

You request in consequence of
cation made to you by Mr Adams, that
given to the Chevalier de la Luzerne re
to a resolution of Congress of the 18. of
should be revoked or at least suspended as th
Plenipotentiary is able to prove that the
are founded on false reports.

Mr Adams on the 22d sent me
~~Lifser~~ Dissertation on the subject in question,
contains only abstract reasonings hypotheses,
calculations which have no real foundati
or which at least do not apply to the
of the thing and in fine principles than
nothing can be less analogous to the Allian
subsisting between his majesty and the
States

By this Sir, you can judge that
pretended proofs mentioned by Mr A
are not of a nature to induce us to
our opinion and consequently cannot eff
revocation or suspension of the orders given
the Chevalier de la Luzerne.

The King is so firmly persuaded Sir th
your private opinion respecting the effects
that Resolution of Congress as far as it concern
Strangers and especially frenchmen differs fr
that of Mr Adams, that he is in nowise app
hensive of embarrassing you by requesting
to support the representations which his minis
is ordered to make to congress and that you
may be enabled to do this with a compleat kn
ledge of the case, his majesty has commande
me to send you a copy of my Letter
Mr Adams, the Observations of the Ple

[illegible] relieved [illegible]
[illegible] immediately, the
[illegible] his majesty flatters
[illegible] ly inspired with pro-
found [illegible] which Mr. Adams
[illegible] will convince his majesty that
[illegible] worthy of some attention
[illegible] and that they know how to
[illegible] favor which the
[illegible] uniformly shewn to the United
[illegible]

However, Sir, the King does not
undertake to point out to Congress the
means which may be employed to [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] who are holders of
[illegible] His majesty with
respect to that relies entirely on the
[illegible] and wisdom of that assembly.

I have the honor to be with the
most perfect Consideration

Sir
Your most humb. and most
obedient Servant

De Vergennes

[illegible] the particulars [illegible] engaging [illegible]
[illegible] whether [illegible] most [illegible]
[illegible] they [illegible]
[illegible] they might have [illegible] all the [illegible] but after
[illegible] that with [illegible]
[illegible] to their Bank, who
[illegible] the [illegible] purchases
[illegible] Letters for Government which you will [illegible]
[illegible] the Cabinet may be informed that [illegible]
[illegible] that there
[illegible] that [illegible] because it
[illegible]
[illegible] conditions [illegible] among whom
[illegible] Letter [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] State therefore [illegible]

[illegible] apply to him for Opinion on the matter of the
[illegible] that he [illegible] the business against me
may be he has even gone so far as to assert that the State
of Iowa has no right to have a Bank nor to negotiate any
Loan abroad, wherefore I now transact my affairs without consulting him, but to the contrary am obliged to exert myself
in keeping all I do from his knowledge for I have every cause to
suppose that he & his curious holders [illegible] will spare no pains to

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] seems as he has created others, one scarcely [illegible] [illegible] been [illegible] yet in the State highly under the [illegible] direction. I [illegible] to promise you every thing, but from what I can hitherto collect A Mr Chaumont is his Aid, whose Character in this Country is such, that I do not conceive it to be either to the Honour or Interest of the State, to have any transactions whatsoever with him, or with any who I am assured are connected with him; Mr Silas Deane whom you have often heard me talk of is a great favourite with those that are concerned in prolonging the War, & clipping our Finances, Pittances I should rather Stile them, for by some Americans instead of their [illegible], & that of the Great Robert Morris & his Clippers of your Side the Water, Finances we Shall never have: this Mr Silas Deane, with A certain Doctor Bancroft, are supposed to be every thing that the Plenipotentiary at [illegible] ever order them to be, & without [illegible] who [illegible] write to America can check them. There is more to be dreaded from Franklin & his infamous party with their party in America than from the British Foe, Alas who in America would have supposed it possible, that America has more to apprehend from the Conduct of her Sons than from the Force of her open Enemies, yet let me console you and friends with this Remark, that there are Some Americans in Europe, who are doing their utmost to check the Evils that must otherwise result from such Errors, those worthies are Mr Jno Adams, Arthur Lee, Ralph Izard, & William Lee. [illegible] [illegible] & did his utmost to assist me in, [illegible] [illegible] the Other [illegible] Gentlemen, [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] that you are much. Mr. Arthur Lee [illegible] to America in this vessel, he can explain much to you, & indeed it is [illegible] that these Virtuous Men are returning home, Heaven ever send them safe, & that great America may be benefitted by their Counsels & Labours, for none with you have more of the knowledge of what is going on in Europe, Mr. A. Lee has had many Opportunities & has improved them, to know what was doing, his Zeal (for the true interest of his Country) to Mr Silas Deane & Mr. Franklin, has no doubt drawn forth all the wrath that bad Men can pour down, when they are certain that they are detected, could it end with their wrath only, the Evil to our Country might not be so great, but when I reflect on the connections formed here I foresee that all what Mr. A. Lee could bestow for the good of his Country would avail very little, what time & Labour has he not spent in procuring the supplies for the State of Virginia, & after he got them, what pains was there not taken to prevent their getting to America, for it is as clear to me as that I know you, that the Success of any Agent from any of our States, depends on his effecting his business before Franklin, Silas Deane, Chaumont, & Bancroft has knowledge of his Plans, as they seem determined that no American shall succeed in his business for the Publick, without paying Toll or Tax to them or their Tax Gatherers, & without a

I am told you there in [illegible] way, no pains are spared to destroy
his reputation, that thereby the facts he asserts, or the means
he pursues to save his country may not be attended to, it is
fashionable now too to cry up the Abilities of Mr Deane, &
to censure Mr A Lee, why, because the former is thought to
be detected by the latter, in matters that may soon reach
the continent, where they will soon ~~[illegible]~~ meet there,
when I am free to prognosticate that it will be found
no Man in Europe, has exerted himself more than
Mr A Lee, has, for the true Interest of his country,
would to God his Success had been equal to his Abilities
on the other hand, it will be found that Mr Silas Deane
has done more Injury to America than a host of Traitors
Tory's could do - When he is applied to for his Opinion
of a trade to America, & spoken [illegible] Merchants of
America, his Language I am told is thus,, do not
ship any thing to America, on your accounts, all is over
with them, they must fall at last, their Counsels are bad,
such expressions from those who seek, of [illegible] to serve us, must
assuredly stagger them but [illegible] the Cause, in the mean
time, this Enemy to his Country as he is generally reported
whilst he discourages others from sending supplies, he is
largely concerned with his Doctors & other Sinners in Shipping
whole Cargoes in Fleets, (that Convoys are procured for)
on his own Accounts to America, but how ministers are
[illegible] not to suppose that such conduct can be suffered from

The Servants of the Public, or that their efforts can
retard the Decree of Heaven, America, then shall be free
& Independent, it is not with me to usher in my Idea
of what might hasten a General avowal of the Indepen,
dence, America has enjoyed since July ye 4th 1776. but
altho' Sailors are bad Politicians, yet I will offer my Opinion
An enquiry to be made into the Conduct of the Servants
of the Publick here, by three Commissioners to be sent
directly from Congress, if any are proved faulty, that
they be ordered home immediately for Trial, & that the
three Commissrs have full power to transact all the
Public Business in Europe, & to be added to those allready
confirmed in Europe who are faithfull Servants, by this the Nest
of Mercenary Men, as well as in America as here
might be broke up. Opposite Characters to some
of those in high Office here & in America, might pro,
duce Measures that would shorten Americas Woes
Men who have been tried in this cause, Men who
never have tired in it, true Earlier Republicans, who
dare to be honest at the worst of the times, Men who have
no Interest that can slacken their endeavours for their
Countries Cause, Men who have no train of family
Dependants to provide for; in short, Men of Sound
Heads & Honest Hearts, clear Judgements & willing
Minds to Labour only for their Countries Good —

& of convenient Men who leave A property in America
to be responsible for their conduct in Europe —

Am now recruiting men here & in the Sea Ports
of this Kingdom, but at L'Orient, ministerial Oppo-
sition to ~~my~~ total business has villainy appearance, for on
[illegible] 150 Americans setting off for Amsterdam, they were
detained, brought back & confined in Prison, whence I could
get them only by influence, under the Clerk that
Paid four each Man, & he must be first served, altho
my officers have written agreements with them.
I have objected to Mr. de Sartine & to the Commandant
at L'Orient in such a Stile that I think they
will not longer Detain American Seamen; I expect
this meets no great success in Holland, for I fear
Franklin & his party will follow me up there, as well
as they did in Prussia, where I was in a fair
way of getting all I was directed to procure till their
infamous machines got whirling about again,
yet my being so well known in Holland, my knowledge
of their Language & manners, leads me to forebode no
little success & to hope I may be disappointed in my Apprehensions. hope soon to hear from you. I wrote you
very fully by that firm friend ~~of [illegible]~~ to his Country
Mr. Ralph Izard. love & respects to all friends & believe
me I am your Affect. friend & Obed.t Ser.t
A. Gillon

Messrs. John S. Cripps & Ney
Charleston South Carolina

Paris June 1780

Copy

Paris July 1st 1780

Sir,

I had this morning the honor of your letter of the 30th of June.

It is very certain that the Representations from his Majesty, which may be made by his Minister the Chevalier de la Luzerne, will be attended to by Congreſs with all possible respect, and its due weight will be given to every Fact and Argument that he may adduce and I am well persuaded that Congreſs will be able to give such reasons for their final result as will give entire satisfaction to his Majesty, and remove every Colour of just Complaint from his Subjects. As in my letter of the 22d of last month, I urged such reasons as appeared to me incontestable to shew that the resolutions of Congreſs of the 18th of March connected with their other Resolution to pay the Loan office Certificates according to the value of Money at the time they were emitted, being a determination to pay the full value of all the Bills and Certificates that were out and the depreciation of both being more the act and fault of the Poſseſsors than of Government; was neither a Violation of public Faith, nor an Act of Bankruptcy. I have the honor to agree with your Excellency in opinion, that any further discussion of these Questions is unnecessary.

I have the honor to be with great respect, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble Servant.

John Adams

Mr Adams to Comte
De Vergennes
July 17. 1780 -

My dear Sir   Rosewell July ye 4th. 1780

I wrote to you about 4 Weeks since apologizing for my long Silence; & I think I mentioned something of a Plan of an Association which I had Thoughts of endeavouring to set on Foot—but I am doubtful whether every thing aimed at might not be much better accomplished by Acts & Resolutions of Assembly & Congress. One Object of my Plan was to rid us of the Tories for whilst they remain amongst us the War will never End. It is impossible the British King & Parliament can withdraw their Fleets & Armies whilst they are made to believe by these People that they have such Numbers of loyal Subjects in America; or that they can despair of conquering a great & valuable of these States, whilst they continue to receive certain Intelligence of their Weakness, Invitations to invade them, the Single Places pointed out, & large Promises of ready Assistance from Loyalists & certain Assurances of the Submission of terrified & ruined Rebels—whilst they find Provisions are bought up by these People out of the Mouths of our [illegible] Soldiers & sent to or reserved here for theirs—whilst they find them constantly encouraging their People, & discouraging ours—disseminating amongst our unwary Citizens Doubts, Fears, Suspicions—a Disapprobation of the Declaration of Independency, of the Confederation & French Alliance. I conceive if we were once to discern the Enemy & their Adherents ~~[illegible]~~ the War would soon end. ~~[illegible]~~ The other object of my Association was to cut off from the English all Hopes of having any Share in our Trade unleſs they shall acknowledge our Independency & withdraw their Fleets & Armies within a certain limited Time, as 6 or 7 Months for Instance & to abstain from trading with the Dutch during the War unleſs they shall also acknowledge our Independency within the same Time. I wish my dear Sir you would consider whether Resolutions & Acts of Aſsembly might not be formed to accomplish these Views & which might be recommended to Congreſs & by them to the other States for their Adoption. But our Aſsembly can with but ill Grace recommend any Plans to Congreſs this Time — I shall be glad to be informed are & in what Manner I shall direct my Letters to your Brother the Doct.r & shall be happy to hear that he & your Brother Wm are well — it is long since I have heard from either of them indeed I have not deserved their Attention but I hope my late Apology will make some amends for my seeming Neglect of you —

I am my Dr Sir yrs affectionately

John Page

Post paid 106 ~~16~~

To

Richard Henry Lee Esqr.

Richmond

40
50
70.0
11

[illegible]
Pickled Beef 24/ pr. lb — Salted pork 30/ — bacon 40/ Indian Corn £7. pr. b
Wheat £20 — Rye 12 — oats 5 — pease £8. Superfine flour £60 pr hund wt. Co
do. £50. Ship Stuff £40 pr. Ct. White biscuit £75 pr. Ct. brown do. £60. W. I. R
£30 pr. Gallon, Taffia £20. brandy 25 Corn Spirits 15 — Allum Salt
£40 ^pr. bushel Beach or fine Salt £30. Authorised to take the surplus of Salted
Beef — pork — Bacon — And of I. Corn half the surplus after leaving
sufficient for the use of the family, or those in his or her service to the
first day of December next — Of wheat Rye, oats, flour, rum, & other
spirits the surplus, leaving as aforesaid to the first day of Sept.
1781 — Also a sufficient qty of such grain for seed — Not exceeding
one half of Biscuit, salt, rum & other spirits for sale —

(No 345)

Sir,

Chantilly July the 18th 1780

I arrived here yesterday evening very much indisposed by a severe cold ^and fever ~~caught at Fredericksburg~~ ~~I received~~ The ~~inclosed~~ two packets that accompany this, ^I received a day or two before I left Richmond and take this earliest occasion to transmit them — They ~~contain~~ contain the Provision Act with a letter from the Governor pointing out the manner of executing that Law — Permit me Sir to observe that upon the quick and successful execution of this measure ~~[illegible]~~ the most important consequences to this and the other United States ^eminently depend — The Law has been dictated by ~~necessity~~ the ~~[illegible]~~ necessity, but there is much reason to hope that the measures taken by ~~the~~ ^the late session of Assembly to supply the public treasury in future will prevent ~~the~~ returns of such necessity — ~~If~~ If we may be at liberty to reason from causes to effects it is very fair to conclude that if we join ^our allies in making adequate and proper efforts this campaign to ~~[illegible]~~ defeat the ambitious views of G. B. ~~we~~ we shall see her compelled before ^next ~~[illegible]~~ spring to submit to a ~~safe~~ peace safe and honorable for ~~us~~ the United States and their friends — ~~The [illegible] ambition of our enemies~~ The efforts of our enemies, stimulated by the last principles of revenge, avarice and ungoverned ambition, are such this year, ~~[illegible]~~ as must inevitably leave them at the end of it in a state of political lifelessness from which it will be extremely difficult to recover — Our great and good Allies wisely discover this, and whilst ~~they~~ their powerful efforts ~~[illegible]~~ give them a decisive superiority at Sea, upon that element where G. B. ~~[illegible]~~ until now hath triumphed the imperious mistress — they reasonably expect from us such ~~efforts~~ ^co-exertions as our own safety, honor & happiness, ~~[illegible]~~ demand — We know with certainty that his most Christian Majesty ~~intends that a powerful land and sea force shall assist us this summer in driving the British forces from the possessions within these states and [illegible]~~ hath determined to assist us ^immediately against our enemies this campaign with a considerable land and sea force; which calls for ~~immediate~~ direct and large supplies of provisions, to feed the armies of cooperation both in the north and the south — Under these circumstances, and with these views, the General Assembly doubting not of the virtue or the generosity of their Constituents have fallen upon such means as appeared to them most effectual for bringing men & provisions into the field with that expedition and certainty which so great a Crisis demands. The care of the Meat house is here the female province. so that much depends on their cheerfulness in part of this necessary business — I am sure that the women of Virginia yield not to any in patriotism and ~~[illegible]~~ love for the happiness of their Country, and ~~we add~~ that whilst the armies of America ~~that [illegible] fighting for their country~~ they have received great and generous assistance from the industrious collections and donations of the virtuous women of Pennsylvania, we shall see our Ladies extremely solicitous to ~~[illegible]~~ furnish all the provisions that they can possibly spare to relieve the wants of those brave men who ~~are bravely fighting~~ are daily hazarding for their security. —

If to these we add the consideration of those great internal divisions which threaten even a revolution in G. B.; the manly resolution of Ireland to be discharged from B. Tyranny; ~~in~~ and the vast national debt now not less than 200 million sterling; a once commercial nation, with her commerce nearly ruined; and under these accumulated pressures, not one Ally; the Powers of Europe viewing as with one eye, and approving as with one mind the downfal of a power that has been exercised with insult and oppression to almost every nation upon earth.

If these sentiments can be of any service to you or your colleagues in the execution of this ~~necessary tax law~~ collection it will make me happy. they are certainly formed upon the best information and closest attention to things —

To Col. Chilton I am &c.

Commissioner of the Money Tax

1780

the ~~[illegible]~~ services of cooperation both in t
these circumstances, and with these v
of the virtue for the generosity of t
such means as appeared to them m
provisions into the field with th
so great a Crisis demands. The care o
province, so that much depends on
necessary business — I am sure th
not to any in patriotism and
of their Country, and ~~shall add~~ t
~~that [illegible] fighting for their~~
generous assistance from the indu
of the virtuous women of Pennsylv
extremely solicitous to ~~[illegible]~~
that they can possibly spare to
men who [illegible] daily Hazarding ~~are bravely fighting~~ f
If to these we add the consid
divisions which threaten even a

R. H. Lee to Col. Chillion
Comm.rs of Money Tax
July 18th 1780.

(No. 345] (~~No. 197~~)

No. ~~20~~ 197

Copy of R. H. Lees
Letter to one of the
Commissioners of the
Tax
July 1780

A Versailles le 20. Juillet 1780.

J'ai reçu, Monsieur, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 13. de ce mois. Je suis très sensible à la confiance avec laquelle vous m'avez communiqué vos Idées sur la position actuelle des Etats unis et sur le besoin qu'ils ont de l'assistance immediate de quelques vaisseaux de ligne et frégates. M. le Chev. de Ternay et M. le Comte de Rochambeau ont été expediés précisement dans la vüe qui fait l'objet de votre lettre ils concerteront leurs operations avec le Congres et M. Washington; et comme le Roi ne leur a rien prescrit sur leur retour en Europe, et qu'au contraire il leur a laissé la liberté d'agir selon qu'ils le jugeront utile pour le soulagement des Etats unis, il y a tout lieu de croire qu'ils prendront leur station durant l'hiver prochain dans l'Amerique Septentrionale si cela convient au Congrès, et qu'ils employëront les vaisseaux et les troupes qui sont sous leur commandement selon le plan qui aura été arreté entr'eux et les generaux Americains.

Vous jugerez par ces details Monsieur que le Roi est bien eloigné d'abandonner la cause Americaine et que sa Majesté sans avoir été

menacée [illegible] au contraire des mesures
efficaces pour la soutenir. Je me flatte, Monsieur, que des
procédés aussi généreux seront sentis en Amérique, et
qu'ils y prévaudront sur les mensonges que l'Ennemi
commun et ses lâches adhérents y répandent pour rendre
la France suspecte, et pour conduire le peuple Américain
à prendre des résolutions qui consommeroient son asser=
=vissement et son déshonneur.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement

Monsieur, votre très humble et très obéissant

Serviteur. De Vergennes.

Mr. John Adams

Copy

Comte Vergennes.
to Mr. Adams
July 20th. 1780.
No. 2.

Paris July 21st 1780.

Sir

I have received the letter which you did me the honor to write me yesterday, and am extremely sensible of your Excellency's confidence in communicating to me the Destination of the Armament under M. le Chev. de Ternay and M. le Comte de Rochambeau, and the probability that the Ships will winter in North America.

I assure your Excellency, that scarcely any news I ever heard gave me more satisfaction, and nothing in my opinion can afford a more effectual assistance to America, or make a durable more grateful impression on the minds of her inhabitants.

I am infinitely mistaken if the Superiority of the Seas in the conduct of this war both in the West Indies & North America, does not demand such a frequent attention. This measure as well demonstrates to Britain, but the World as well as to the English and the Americans the Kings determined benevolence to the American cause.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,

your Excellency's

Most obedient

and most humble Servant.

His Excellency

the Comte De Vergennes

John Adams

Paris July 26th 1780

I have receiv'd the letter which your excellency did me the hono to write me the twenty fifth of this month — —

The sincere respect I entertain for your excellency's sentiments would have determin'd me, upon the least intimation, to have communicated my letter and your excellency's answer to Congress, and to suspend, untill I should receive orders on their part, all measures towards the British Ministry, without your excellency's requisition in the name of the King. — I shall transmit these pa to Congress, and I doubt not the reasons your excellency has adduced will be sufficient to induce them to suspend any communicat to the British ministry, as it is undoubtedly their wisdom, to conduct all such measures in concert with their allies —

There is a great body of people in America, as determined as any to support their independence and their alliances, who notwithstanding wish that no measure may be left unattempted by Congress or their servants to manifest their readiness for peace upon such terms as they think honorable and advantageous to all parties, your excellency's arguments, or indeed your authority, will probably be sufficient to satisfy these people, and to justify me, whereas without them, I might have been liable to the censure of numbers. For it is most certain that all due deference will be shown by the people of the United States and their servants both in and out of Congress to the sentiments of the ministry of france — — This deference however by no means extends so far, as to agree in all cases to those sentiments without examination — I cannot therefore agree in the sentiment, that proposing a treaty of Peace and Commerce is discovering a great deal of weakness, or that the Americans have forgotten the British system of Tyranny, Cruelty and Perfidy, or to invite her to believe that the Americans have an irresistible predilection for Eng

and as to [illegible] are in the opinion that the American plenipotentiary
admit the accounts in the papers of the Independent Chronicle of
[illegible] was far from thinking it would give credit to them
[illegible] there be such in all Europe that the United States are in-
clining towards a defection, and they will not be faithful to their engage-
ments [illegible] on the contrary that it would diverted the attention
[illegible] which prevails too much in Europe, that there is a commercial
treaty between France and the United States, by which the former is
entitled to exclusive privileges in the American trade.

It is very true, that the Independence of America must be acknow-
ledged before a treaty of peace can be made. But the proposal of
a free trade with America upon principles of perfect equality
and reciprocity, like that between France and the United States,
must be a powerful inducement with the people of England
to acknowledge American Independence. [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] to that acknowledgement. The Congress have given
no positive instructions concerning the time of [illegible]
[illegible] have given them [illegible]
[illegible] and as a continuation of the [illegible]
[illegible] themselves. It is very certain that all the
[illegible] powers are busily occupied every winter in their
councils and preparations for the ensuing campaign,
and it is also certain that the artifice of the British minis-
try in holding up to view every winter some appearance or
design of reconciliation formerly and of peace latterly,
has been a real engine of hostility against America, equal
to a considerable part of the British army —

Neither the people of America, nor Mr Adams, have any
the least dread upon their minds of an insolent answer from
one of the British ministers, nor of the ridicule of those

nations who have not yet acknowledged the Independence of America. No Man of any knowledge, justice or humanity in any of those Nations would laugh upon such an occasion, on the contrary, he would feel a just indignation against a minister who should insult a message so obviously calculated for the good of England and of all Europe in the present circumstances of affairs —

I am very much mistaken, for I speak upon memory, if the Duke of Richmond did not make a motion [illegible] in the House of Lords, and if Mr Hartley did not make another about a year ago, which was seconded by Lord [illegible] in the House of Commons tending to grant Independence to America and it is very certain that a great part of the people of England think that Peace can be had upon no other terms — It is most clear that the present ministry will not grant Independence. The only chance of obtaining it is by a change of that ministry. The King is so attached to that ministry that he will not change them, until it appears that they have lost the confidence of the people, their representatives, [illegible] [illegible] have no longer support them. Under the [illegible] the last winter, the weight and sentiments of the people were so considerable, as to bring many great questions nearly to a ballance and particularly to carry one vote one against the increase of the influence of the crown and another against the board of trade and plantations, a vote that seemed almost to decide the American question, and to come within a very few votes of deciding against the American secretary. — Now where parties are approaching so near to a ballance, even a small weight thrown into either scale may turn it. In my letter of the thirteenth of February

I said, that my appointment was notorious in America, and that therefore it was probably known to the Court of London, altho they had no regular evidence of it. The mention was more particularly concerning a commission to negotiate the pacification. This was publicly in the American news papers in a general way. but I have no reason to think they are particularly informed of these matters. If they were, no evil that I am aware of, could result from giving them the information officially. Certainly they have no official information, and it is reported that there seems that they know the nature of Mr Adams's commission. ——

Without any great effort of genius, I think it easy to see and to say, that acknowledging American Independence and making a treaty of peace, upon principles of perfect reciprocity, England would in the present circumstances of affairs make an honorable and advantageous peace. It would have been more for their honor and advantage never to have made this war against America, it is true; but having made it, all the dishonor and disadvantage there is in it, is indelible. And after thirteen colonies to have been driven to throw off their government, and annihilate it in every root and branch, becoming independent in fact, maintaining their Independence against a force of sixty thousand men, and fifty ships of war that would have shaken most of the States of Europe to the very foundation, after maintaining this Independence four years and having made an honorable treaty with the first power in Europe — after another power had fallen into the war in consequence of the same system — after the voice of Mankind had so far declared against the justice of their cause, that they could get no ally, but on the contrary all the Maritime [illegible] powers are entering into a confederacy against them upon a point which has been a principal source of their naval superiority in Europe: in these circumstances the only honourable part they can act is, to conform to the opinions of Mankind; and the dishonourable and ruinous part for them to act is to continue the war. For the principle that the peop that the people have a right to a having government according to their own judgments and inclinations is in this enlightened age, so well agreed in the world, that it would be thought dishonourable by mankind in general for the English to govern three millions of people against their wills by military force, and this is all they can ever hope, for, even supposing they could bribe and tempt deserters enough from our army, and apostates from our cause to make it impossible for us to carry on the war. This however I know to be impossible, and that they never will get quiet possession again of the government of any one whole state out of thirteen, no not for an hour. If England considers further that America is now known all over Europe to be such a magazine of raw materials for manufactures, such a nursery of seamen and such a source of commerce and naval power that it would be dangerous for all the maritime powers to suffer any one of them to establish a dominion and a monopoly in America. I know that there exists in some European minds a prejudice against America, and a jealousy that she will be hurtful to Europe, and England may place ome dependence upon this prejudice and jealousy, but the ministers of the Maritime powers begin to convince her, that this prejudice jealousy is not so deep as they thought, and surely there never was a more groundless prejudice entertained among men, and it must dissipate, as soon as the subject is considered — America is a nation of husbandmen, planted on a vast continent of wild uncultivated land, and there is & will be for centuries no way in which these people can get a living and advance their interests so much as by agriculture they can apply themselves to manufactures, only to fill up interstices of time, in which they cannot labour on their lands, and to commerce only to carry the produce of their lands the raw materials of manufactures to the European market. Europe is a country, whose lands is all cultivated nearly to perfection, where the people have no way to advance themselves, but by manufactures and commerce. Here are two worlds then fitted by God and Nature to benefit each other, one by furnishing raw materials the other Manufactures; and they never can interfere. The number of the States in America, their position and extension over such a great continent, and their fundamental constitution that nine States must concur to war, shew that nine of those States never can agree in any foreign war, or any other war but for self defence, if they should ever become powerful — But in this case, however disagreeable a prospect it may open to Americans, Europe has an everlasting Warranty against their becoming dan gerous to her, in the natures of men, the nature of the governments and their position towards one another, all these circumstances were taken, and the people of England began to be sensible of it, that Europe will never suffer them to regain their domination and monopoly, even if the English were able to extort a forced submission. In this situation then the only advantageous and honorable course for England is to make peace and open commerce with America, in perfect consistency with her independence and her alliances. The people of England cannot be made to furnish subsidies and men, for it is certain there never was so much murmuring and such radical discontent in that nation not any other but at the Eve of a revolution. — I very cheerfully agree with your excellency in opinion, that the court of Spain has sagacity to penetrate and to defeat the deceitful designs of the English, and am not under other apprehensions from thence, than that the report of a negotiation with Spain will have some impression in America where I believe the English ministry chiefly intend it. I have already said that from the present British ministry, no peace. It is for the nation and for the change of ministry, as a step towards peace, that I thought it might have some effect to wish the communication, and to satisfy those people in America, who without the most distant thought of departing from their independence or alliances, wish still to take every favorable measure towards Peace — Your Excellency's letter will convince them that my apprehensions were wrong and your advice will undoubtedly be followed as it ought to be, for they cannot promise themselves any advantage from the communication equivalent to the inconveniency of taking a measure of this kind, which ought be done but in concert against the opinion of the Minister of France — I have the honour to be with the

greatest respect, Sir, your Excellency's
most obedient and most humble Servant.

Signed John Adams —

Mr Adams to Cte de Vergennes
July 20th 1781

No 8

His Excellency the Comte de Vergennes

Le Comte de Vergennes a M. M. Adams. à Versailles le 25 Juilet 1780

J'ai reçu M. la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 17 de ce mois je l'ai lu avec la plus sérieuse attention, et pour rendre ma réponse d'autant plus exacte, je l'ai placée en marge de chacun des articles qui m'a paru meriter des observations de ma part. Vous y verrez M. que je persiste a penser que le moment de communiquer au Ld Germaine vos pleins-pouvoirs, n'est pas encore venu, et vous y trouverez les motifs sur lesquels je fonde mon opinion. Je ne doute pas que vous n'en sentiez la force, et qu'elles ne vous déterminent a penser comme moi. Mais dans le cas contraire je vous invite, et même vous requiers, au nom du Roi, de communiquer votre lettre et ma réponse aux Etats-Unis, et de suspendre jusqu'à ce que vous ayez reçu des ordres de leur part, toute démarche vis-a-vis du Ministre anglois. Je ferai passer de mon côté mes observations en Amérique afin que M. de la Luzerne puisse en entretenir les Membres du Congrès

J'ose croire que ce Sénat jugera le sentiment du Ministère de France digne de quelque attention, et qu'il ne craindra pas de s'égarer, et de trahir les intérêts des Etats-Unis en l'adoptant pour règle de sa conduite

J'ai l'honneur d'être &c &c

signé De Vergennes

Count de Vergennes
to Mr. Adams
No. 60.

Comte de Vergennes

1mo Les motifs qui ont determiné le Cte de Vergennes a donner ce conseil a M. Adams, sont aussi simples qu'ils paroissent peremptoires. 1mo S'occuper d'un traité de commerce, avant d'avoir fait la paix, c'est s'occuper de l'ornement d'un Edifice avant d'en avoir posé les fondements. 2do Dans l'Etat ou se trouve encore l'Amerique a l'egard de l'Angleterre, annoncer a cette Puissance qu'on a oublié son systême d'asservissement, ses cruautés, ses perfidies, c'est lui montrer beaucoup de foiblesse, au moins beaucoup de bonhommie, c'est l'inviter a croire que les Américains ont une predilection irresistible pour elle, c'est la fortifier dans l'opinion ou elle est, que les Americains patriotes se soumettront par lassitude ou par la crainte de l'influence preponderante des Torys. — 3o Proposer un traité de commerce qui doit avoir pour baze la confiance et une liaison équivalente a une Alliance, tandis que la guerre est dans toute sa fureur, tandis que la Cour de Londres veut ou detruire, ou asservir l'Amerique, n'est ce pas accrediter l'opinion ou toute l'Europe a toujours été, d'apres les assertions des Ministres anglois, que les Etats Unis inclinent vers une défection, et qu'ils ne seront fidelles a leurs engagemens envers la France, qu'aussi longtems que l'Angleterre ne leurs fournira pas un prétexte pour les rompre.

2do On peut être muni eventuellement des pleins-pouvoirs sans être obligé de les exhiber avant que les circonstances permettent d'en faire usage; ce cas arrive journellement. M. Adams est chargé de trois commissions tres distinctes — 1mo de prendre part aux Negotiations futures de la Paix — 2o de conclure une traité de commerce avec

Mr. Adams

1mo In yr Excellency's letter to me of ye 24 Feby last. I was honored with yr opinion in the following words — "Quant au plein pouvoir, qui vous autorise a negocier un traité de commerce avec la Cour de Londres, je pense qu'il sera prudent de n'en donner communication à qui que ce soit, et de prendre toutes les précautions possibles pour que le Ministere Anglois n'en ait pas une connoissance prématurée. Vous sentirez surement de vous même les motifs que me portent à vous conseiller cette précaution, et il seroit superflu que je vous les exposasse." I should have been very happy if yr Exy had hinted at ye reasons wch were then in yr mind, because after reflecting on this subject as maturely as I can I am not able to collect any reasons wch appear to me sufficient, for concealing the nature of my Powers in their full extent from the Court of London. On the contrary many arguments have occurred to me, which seem to shew it to be, both the policy of the U. States & my particular duty to communicate them.

2do Yr Excellency

will recollect that my Commissions empower me to join with the Ministers of the Belligerent Powers in making peace — to make a treaty of Commerce with the Ministers of his Britannic Majesty & to represent the Congress as their Minister plenepotentiary at the Court of London. It seems to me then inconsistent with the design & nature of my appointments to conceal them from the Court of St. James's.

3o — I think also that announcing my Powers to the Court of London would have a tendency to draw out from them some proofs of their present designs, & it is always important to discover early the intentions of the Enemy, that the People may be prepard both with Councils & forces to resist them if [illegible] hostile

la grande Bretagne — 3° de représenter les Etats-Unis a la Cour de Londres. Il ne faut pas grand effort de génie pour démontrer que ces trois objects ne sauroient être cumulés il n'en faut pas davantage pour démontrer que les deux derniers ne sauroient servir d'acheminement au premier. Il faudra avant toutes choses obtenir de l'Angleterre qu'elle reconnoisse l'Indépendance de l'Amerique et que cette reconnoissance serve de baze au traité de Paix; ce ne sera qu'après l'avoir obtenue que M. Adams pourra parler d'une Traité de Commerce. En proposer une, tandis que la Cour de Londres se flatte encore de soumettre l'Amerique et qu'elle fait dans cette vue les efforts les plus extraordinaires, ce seroit a ces yeux, lui proposer un Chymère, ce seroit faire une demarche qu'elle regarderoit comme une derision. Il en seroit de même si on lui parloit, dans le moment présent d'un Ministre plenepotentiare des Etats-Unis, destiné a residér près sa Majesté britannique. Ainsi le seul Pouvoir dont les circonstance ont pû permettre a M. Adams de faire l'annonce, c'est celui qui l'autorise a prendre part a la negociation de la Paix. Les deux autres n'auront de valeur que lorsque cette Paix sera conclue; ainsi il sera au moins inutile de les produire actuellement, ainsi M. Adams ne s'ecarte pas du but et de la nature de ses Pouvoirs, en les cachant a la Cour de Londres. Quoique le Cte de Vergennes ignore le contenu des instructions de M. Adams il est persuadé qu'elles sont analogues aux reflexions qui viennent d'etre faites, et qu'elles ne prescrivent pas plus la communication immediate des Pouvoirs relatifs au traité de Commerce qu'elles ne lui ordonnent de faire une Paix separée avec la grande Bretagne. Cette opinion est fondée sur celle que le Ministère du Roi a de la sagacité de la prudence, et de la fidelité du Congrès.

3° On vient de l'observer le Ministère anglois regarderoit cette communication comme une dérision, ainsi c'est vouloir s'aveugler volontairement, que de supposer qu'elle engagera a entrer dans des pour-parlers qu'elle lui fera dire autre chose que ce que portent les resolutions du Parlement sçavoir qu'elle écoutera et recevra les Americains en grace lorsqu'ils auront reconnu leur ancienne Allegeance, or il seroit au moins superflu de s'attirer une pareille reponse, et les Etats-Unis n'en ont pas besoin pour connoitre les sentiments actuels de la Cour de Londres, et encore moins pour se preparer par des conseils et des Armées tandis que la guerre dans toute sa force, qu'elle dure depuis près de six ans, et que l'Angleterre n'a pas encore fait aux Americains la moindre ouverture qui puisse les autoriser a croire qu'elle veut souscrire a leur independance.

4° Le Ministère anglois ne feroit aucune reponse ou bien il en feroit une insolente: dans cette dernière supposition, pourquoi s'exposer gratuitement a une avanie, et se rendre par là la risée de toutes les Nations qui n'ont pas encore reconnu l'independance des Etats-Unis. Mais il y a lieu de croire que M. Adams demeureroit sans reponse parce que le Ministère britannique croira n'en pas devoir a un homme qui prendra une qualité que la Cour de Londres doit regarder comme une insulte. Il ne faut point perdre de vue que cette Cour regarde toujours les Américains comme des sujets rebelles. Comment avec cette opinion le Lord Germaine pourroit-il recevoir une Lettre de M. Adams se qualifiant Ministre plenipotentiaire des Etats Unis de l'Amerique septentrionale, comment ce Ministre anglois pourroit-il entendre parler d'un traité de Commerce, lequel ne peut se faire qu'entre Nations indépendantes.

Ces observations convaincront M. Adams

4° The English Nation would expect of the Ministry that some Answer should be given to me. If it should be an insolent one, as there is too much cause to expect, it will prepare the minds of the Americans and of the other belligerent Powers for what they are to expect; but will alarm & rouse, if any thing can the People of England. At this particular time when the Election approaches, it would throw the Ministry into some embarrassment, for the People of England sigh for Peace.

N.B. Spain had not acknowledged the Independancy of the United Provinces when the Treaty of Munster began to be negotiated. That Treaty was proposed in the midst of a furious war. M. de Beys was sent to London in the midst of the last war with Powers to treat. Ld North received a Letter from the Commissioners at Paris on the exchange of Prisoners & the exchange took place. The English had in the same manner made Overtures to us, & the refusal of them served Arnold as a pretext for desertion & the case of the same might happen to their Ireland.

que la France n'a pas besoin de la tentative qu'il propose pour connoître et apprécier les sentiments et les dispositions de la Cour de Londres, et que nous savons dès à présent parfaitement bien à quoi nous devons et pouvons nous attendre de sa part dans la position actuelle des choses.

5o. Idem

5o. Le silence, ou la réponse du ministère anglois quelle qu'elle soit, n'allarmera ni ne soulevera le Peuple d'Angleterre. Le Peuple désire sans doute la Paix et un accommodement avec l'Amerique; mais l'on a entendu encore que quelques particuliers plûtot par esprit de contradiction que par conviction, parler de l'independance. Il ne s'est pas fait au Parlement une seule motion tendante à accorder cette Independance. Le Peuple a cependant des Amis et des protecteurs dans le Parlement. M. Adams peut juger par là des embarras que la Notification de ses pouvoirs donneroit au Ministère.

6th
6. Another consideration has weighed with me. A great part of Europe, as well as the People of England are amused by the english Ministry & their Emissaries, with reports that there is some secret treaty with France & the U. S. by which the former have secured to themselves exclusive priviledges in some branches of the american Commerce, which misrepresentations as they are at present an obstruction to peace would be cleared up by a communication of my Powers.

6o. L'Angleterre, comme le reste de l'Europe, est parfaitemt. eclairée sur la nature des engagements qui subsistent entre la France et les Etats-Unis. Le Roi lui a fait déclarer ministeriellement le 13 Mars 1778 qu'il ne s'etoit fait assurer aucun privilége exclusif par le Traité de Commerce du 6 fev. de la même année, et sa Majesté a confirmé cette declaration dans un écrit publié par ses ordres. Ainsi les pleins-pouvoir de M. Adams n'apprendra rien de nouveau à cet égard ni à l'Angleterre, ni aux autres Puissances de l'Europe, ainsi la fausse opinion où il croit que la Cour de Londrés est à cette égard ne sauroit être un obstacle à la paix; si cette obstacle pouvoit exister le Ministère anglois chercheroit lui même à le lever, s'il etoit determiné à faire dependre de là la Paix.

7th. There are at present many

7o. Il est certain que toute la Nation angloise, et les ministres eux-mêmes desirent la Paix; mais on l'a deja dit il n'a pas été fait une seule motion en faveur de l'Independance de l'Amerique; le plenipouvoir de M. Adams ne changera certainement pas les dispositions subordonnée a cet egard; par consequent, la communication qui en seroit faite, ne faciliteroit ni n'accelereroit la conclusion de la paix.

8° Cette reflexion est très sage. Elle prouve que M. Adams sent lui même qu'il est des circonstances qui le mettent dans le cas de céler ses pleins pouvoirs. Le Ministere du Roi pense que l'on sera dans des circonstances de cette espèce, jusqu'au moment ou la Nation angloise se montrera disposé a reconnoitre l'independance des Etats-Unis. Cette reconnoissance ne sera pas facilitée par l'annonce d'un traité de Commerce. Car les Anglois sont très persuadés dès a present qu'ils auront un traité pareil avec l'Amerique, quand ils le jugeront apropos. Ils ont d'ailleurs ainsi que M. Adams, le dit lui même dans sa lettre du 19 fev. dernier une entière connoissance de sa commission, ainsi la communication de son plein-pouvoir ne leur apprendroit rien de nouveau a cet egard.

9° On vient de repondre au contenu de cet article. Il n'est pas un Anglois qui ne soit persuadé que les Etats-Unis ne soient disposés a accorder les avantages du Commerce á leur ancienne métropole. Mais persuadé non seulement a un Anglois, mais aussi a un être pensant qu'en accordant l'independance en échange de ces mêmes avantages, la Cour de Londres feroit une paix honorable & avantageuse seroit une tâche difficile a remplir: si tel etoit le véritable sentiment du Peuple anglais, pourquoi fourniroit il depuis six ans, sans murmurer, des subsides ruineux pour soumettre l'Amerique.

10° Ou le Ministere anglois recherche sincerement la Paix, ou il ne veut qu'amuser et penetrer l'Espagne. Dans le premier cas, il exprimera les conditions auxquelles il desire la traiter. il sera donc obligé de mettre au jour ses vues et ses

persons of consideration in England who have long followed the Ministry in the war against America, who begin to see the improbability of succeeding & now vote for peace & will favor every occurrence that favors its accomplishment.

8° At this moment under the with impression that the surrender of Charlestown has made it might be improper to make the communication; but upon the news arriving of M. de Ternay's arrival or of Don Solanos or both, or upon the receit of some intelligence which may may take off a part of this impression, I submit it to your Excellency's consideration whether it would not be proper for me to communicate my appointment to Ld G Germn. It seems to be most proper that it should be done so that the nation may consider them before the meeting of Parliament & that those who wish for peace may digest their plans accordingly.

9° Notwithstanding the suppression of the late Riots & the consequent temporary relaxation of the Committees & Associations the nation is in a most critical situation. Those disturbances were not simply the effect of fanaticism & bigotry, but of deep & general

discontent & distress among the People, & altho' the Ministry may at present be confident they have suppressed them forever, they will surely find themselves mistaken if they pursue this war. I know of no measure that is more likely to increase the opposition against Administration than communicating my Powers. It will at least shew all the world, that the continuance of the war, & the consequent ruin of England is their own fault not that of the Americans who are ready to make peace upon terms honourable & advantageous to G. B.

10- I am the more confirmed in these opinions by the communication your Excellency made to me yesterday of the message sent by the Court of London to the Court of Madrid. I am convinced in my own mind, that that message is insidious in the last degree, & that it is intended to answer two ends only - first to spy out what they can of the political ~~[illegible]~~ & military plans of Spain - secondly & principally to amuse

demande concernant l'Amerique. Il n'oubliera certainement rien de ce qu'il croira pouvoir acheminer la paix, et d'accord sur l'independence son premier soin sera sans doute de demander d'être mis au niveau de la France relativement au Commerce.

Si au contraire le Ministère anglois ne veut qu'amuser l'espagne, pénétrer ses desseins, rallentir ses preparatifs de guerre, M. Adams voudra bien rendre au ministère de Madrid la justice de croire qu'il a la sagacité necessaire pour demêler toutes ses vues & assez des lumieres et de prudence pour determiner la conduite qu'il lui conviendra de tenir.

11º. Si M. Adams est aussi sur que de son existence que les ministres Anglois n'ont pas envie de faire la paix a des conditions egalement convenables a la France & a l'Amerique a quoi bon leur communiquer a present ses pouvoirs dont l'on ne pourra faire usage qu'apres la Paix?

Comment M. Adams peut-il se persuader que la Cour de Londres sera seduite par l'appat d'un traité de Commerce tandis qu'elle manifeste encore une repugnance invincible a reconnoitre l'independance? Quand Elle voudra la reconnoitre cette Independance, Elle proposera d'elle-même les conditions qu'elle croira devoir y mettre, et M. Adams peut-être assuré qu'elle n'oubliera point le Commerce. Ce sera là le veritable moment de produire ses Pleins-pouvoirs. Mais en attendant il faut travailler à établir la baze de la negociation savoir l'Independance de l'Amerique et l'on ne pourra y reussir qu'en faisant la guerre avec vigeur & avec succes.

France Spain & America by false ideas of pacific inclinations simply in order to slacken & enervate their preparations for the next campaign. Sincere intentions of making peace upon any terms which France & America can agree to, consistent with subsisting treaties, I am as sure they have not as I am of my existence.

11th. Now I think there is no way of counteracting this insidious policy, so honorably and so effectually, as by a frank & decent communication of my full Powers; for this will precipitate them to come to an explanation of their real intentions concerning America; for there Sir lies the obstacle to peace; all other questions would soon be arranged, if that was settled. I hope your Excy will pardon the long letter I write you, because it is really a voluminous subject We have in contemplation & mankind in general are little less interested in it than our particular Countries.

Paris July 27th 1780

Sir

Since my letter of the twenty first and upon reading over again your Excellency's Letter to me of the twentieth, I observe one paragraph which I think it my duty to consider more particularly —

The [illegible] your Excellency [illegible], that the King without having been solicited by the Congress, had taken measures the most efficacious to sustain the American cause —

Upon this part of your letter I must entreat your Excellency to recollect, that the Congress [illegible] so long ago as the year 76 before Dr Franklin was sent off for France, instructed him, Mr Deane and Mr Lee, to solicit the King for six ships of the line, and I have reason to believe that the Congress have been from that moment to this persuaded that this object has been constantly solicited by their ministers at this court. In addition to this I have my personal as well as public motive, to recall to your Excellency's recollection a letter or memorial, which was presented to your Excellency in the latter end of December 1778 or the beginning of January 1779 in which a great variety of arguments were adduced to show, that it was not only good policy but absolutely necessary to send a superiority of naval force to the coast of the continent of America. This letter together with your Excellency's answer acknowledging the receipt of it, I transmitted to Congress myself, and their [illegible] that they would [illegible] [illegible] ago, so that the Congress I am persuaded rest on the most perfect security in the persuasion that every thing has been done by themselves and their servants at this court to obtain this measure, and that the necessary arrangements of the king's naval service, have hitherto prevented it —

But if it was only suspected in Congress that a direct applicati
on from them to the King was expected, I am well persuaded they

would not hesitate a moment to make it —

But I am so convinced by experience of the absolute necessity of more conversations and communications between his majesty's ministers and the ministers of Congress, that I am determined to omit no opportunity of communicating my sentiments to your excellency, upon every thing that appears to me of importance to the common cause, in which I can do it with any propriety; and these communications shall be direct^{d} in person or by Letter, to your excellency without the intervention of any third person, and I shall be very happy and think myself highly honor'd to give my poor opinion and advice to his majesty's ministers, upon any thing that relates to the United States or the common cause whenever they shall be asked — I wish I may be mistaken, but it could answer no good purpose to deceive myself; and I certainly will not disguise my sentiments from your excellency. I think that admiral Graves with the ships before in America will be able to impede the operations of M^{r} Le Chev^{r} de Ternay, of M. le Cte de Rochambeau and of Gen. Washington if their plan is to attack New York. If there should be a naval battle between the Chev^{r} de Ternay and admiral Graves, the event is uncertain. From the near equality of force and the equality of bravery and of naval science, which now prevails every where, I think we cannot depend upon any thing decisive in such an engagement, unless it be from the particular character of Graves, whom I know personally to be neither a great man nor a great officer. If there should be no decision in a naval Rencontre, Graves and his fleet must lie at New York, and de Ternay and his at Rhode

Island. I readily agree that this will be a greater advantage to the common cause, for the reasons mention'd to your excellency in my letter of the 13th of this month —

but still I beg leave to suggest to your excellency, whether it would not be for the good of the common cause, to ha still further resources in view, whether circumstances may not be such in the west Indies, as to enable M de Guichen to dispatch ships to the reinforcement M. de Ternay: and whether it may not consist with King's service to dispatch ships from Europe for th purpose; and further whether the court of Spain cannot be convinced of the policy of keeping open the communication between the United States and the French and Spanish Islands in the West Indies, so as to co-operate with France and the United States in the system of keeping up a constant superiority of naval forces both upon the coast of North America and in the West India Islands. This is the true plan which is finally to humble the English and give the combin'd powers the advantage. The English in the course of the last war deriv'd all their triumphs both upon the continent o America and the Islands from the succours they receiv from their colonies. And I am sure that France and Spain, with attention to the subject, may receive assistance in this war from the same source equally decisive —

I have the honor to be with great respect and attachment, Sir, your Excellency's most obedient and most humble Servant

Signed John Adams

Extract from a Letter to the President of Congress from Governor Jefferson dated July 27th 1780.

(No 346)

"I beg leave to refer you to the enclosed No 2. a very imperfect state of our disbursements for the Continent. Whenever the books of our Auditors shall be put under a proper course of examination, many other articles of expenditure for the continent will doubtless be found which have escaped the present hasty examination. By that state it appears that we have answered for the Continent since May 21st 1779. £6,404,440.13 or 13,681,360 2/3 dlls. — There are still very considerable Accounts out, which we have assumed; some of them partly unpaid, some wholly so.

This requisition (May 19, 1780) could not be complied with in point of time, for reasons explained in my letter to your Excellency of June 30th 1780. With that we sent on in money & bills 1,430,239 8/9 dlls. to make up our whole quota of 1,953,200 dlls, we are still to send on 522,960 1/9 unless the requisition of June the 17th was meant to appropriate this requisition to the supply of the military chest, in the southern department. There is no other balance due from the State, whereon that resolution can operate.

On the receit of the resolution of Decr 11th

1779. notice was given to the continental quarter master that we should be ready to give him orders for the grain which was then coming in under an act of Assembly which had laid a specific tax in grain. What would be the amount of this was not then well known. We since find that what we allotted to continental use, amounted to about 80,000 bushels of short forage; part of this has been received, & we are collecting for the continental quarter-master & Commissary to the posts recommended by Genl. Washington. This no doubt is counted in part of the subsequent requisitions of Feb. 25th. Large orders are out for the purchase of beef. Considerable quantities of Specifics have been furnished to the troops marching to the southward. Our endeavors indeed have been much disappointed by the insufficiency of our revenues to answer these & the calls of money for other purposes. Our ultimate dependence for supplying deficiencies in the articles of meat, flour, salt, short forage, & rum is on the act No 4, herewith transmitted.

The Executive immediately ordered nearly the whole of their troops which had been raised for the particular defence of the State, to join the continental army to the southward. That some idea may be formed of the proportion of their quota which this addition effected I beg leave to refer to the enclosed state, No. 1. made out from the returns therein referred to, which have been made to me, their dates being from Ocr. 13th 1779, to March 5th 1780, except as to the state troops ordered into service as above whose numbers are entered as they marched the 2d. May following. To these may be added something upwards of 300 new recruits then engaged for the war, of whom no returns having been regularly made, they are not entered. The Assembly which met in May of the present year, passed one act for sending 2500 militia into the field, which has been carried into execution, & another for raising by way of draught, one fifteenth of the whole number of our Militia, which after all probable deductions, they count upon as 3000 men. These are to serve as Regulars till Decr. 31. 1781, & will be rendezvoused about the last of the ensuing month."

Mr Jefferson
To the Presd. of Congreſs
July 27th 1780

(No 346) ~~No 90~~

Gov: Jefferson

No. 68

Versailles 3

Sir

The character wth [illegible] invested, yr wisdom & [illegible] I have in yr principles [illegible] induce me to comm[illegible] correspondence which [illegible] with Mr Adams [illegible] will find in the Lette[illegible] Plenipotentiary opin[illegible] turn which do not correspond either with the manner in wch I explained myself to him or with the intimate connexion which subsists between the King and the United States. You will make that use of these pieces which your prudence shall suggest. As to myself I desire that you would transmit them to Congress that they may know the line of conduct which Mr Adams pursues with regard to to us, and that they may judge whether he is [illegible], no doubt desires, with that conciliating spirit which is necessary for the

portant and delicate bu
th which he is entruste
the honor to be, with
t Sincerity, Sir,
most humble & most obedient
Servant

De Vergennes

Papers

1780
June 16. Mr. Adams to Count de Vergennes orig.
act of Mass: respectg the act of Congress
of March 18.
21 Count de V's answer copy
objections to 40 for 1 &c.
Mr. A to Count de V— orig.
inclosing a Copy of Mr. Gerry's [illegible] fixing
the Value of Loan Office certificates
22 Mr. A. to Ct. de V— orig. acknowledging the
Rect. of the Counts of 21 promising an answer
in which he flatters himself the plan of
Congress will be demonstrated not only
wise but just
30 Count de V to Mr. A copy
July 12 Mr. A to Ct. de V orig.
the present conjuncture
Count de V— to Mr. A copy in answ. to 1

July 17 Mr. A to Count de V —
communicating h

21 Mr. A to Count de V —
imparting "the reflections
the destination of Mr. Ser

25 Count de V — to Mr. A co

— Observations on Mr. A's

26 Mr. A to Count de V — a
and to the Obser

27 Mr. A to Count de V —
an Exposition on the Count's letter of 21

Count de V — copy answer to Mr. A's 27.

Priv & Secr

(No. 347)

Philadelphia 1st Augt 1780.

Dear Sir.

Had I at any time since my arrival here been poſseſsed of a scrap of good News I should have attempted to allay your hungering & thirsting. In the 31 days which I have been sauntering away about the City & Congreſs Chamber, I have heard nothing pleasing to the mind, seen nothing but melancholy accomplishments of the last Year's predictions, such circumstances as I would wish to communicate in a shady retreat, but cannot venture to display upon Paper — the Body Politic is sick, such indeed the Servants of the House are more & more vicious & unleſs relief be immediately administred by wise cautions of the better branches of the Family a dissolution or violent convulsion will infallibly be the consequence. what a picture is this, & yet believe me my Dear Sir it is not too highly coloured. — what an unhappy Man must he be who is entring upon service in such a Family. When at some times I have taken up the Pen intending to pay my respects to my worthy friend at Chantilly a damp Cloud has overspread me & I have laid the Pen down again. the last Post Morning, maugre all reluctance, I had determined to acknowledge the rect. of your obliging Letter of 10th Ulto. — Govr. Rutledge came in & demanded my attendance in a conversation respecting the recovery of our Southern States the subject was Interesting & detained me till the hour for writing was past, I confeſs I felt a kind of gladneſs from being provided with so good an excuse & I almost wish for as good a one in the present moment, but I altogether wish for the aſsistance of your self & some other Men of abilities in our great Council — We have at present as far as I am able to pronounce an honest composition but chiefly made up of new hands, who from a want of knowledge of things past are more liable to err in judgement by confining their views to the appearance of the thing immediately before them, instances in point have frequently occurred within my 30 days experience.

This

this is an Evil, but perhaps not the greatest, the Wheels of the Machine are clogged, the proper means for renewing their motion are wanting & every State & every Man is praying to Jupiter; he has provided them with Shoulders & will work no miracles for such Lubbers. This Pen Itches to add, we have no Money, no Credit on this side & are running fast, not wantonly in debt on the other, but I will restrain it.

The French Fleet under Monsr. de Ternay is blocked up at Rhode Island by a superior squadron commanded by Admls. Graves & Arbuthnot who now lie between that first & an expected second division & we are told Sir Henry Clinton is embarking 9000 Troops in the Sound intending an attack upon our Allies on the Island — the Chevalr. L— aſsures me the 2d. division is competent to defence, I wish it may be so. Meſsrs. Ternay & Rochambeau hold themselves to be secure from Insult, American Troops are gathering fast, to join them. the Commander in Chief has in this critical Moment transmitted to those Officers his definitive Plan of operations, says, the Die is cast & he rests upon the States for saving our Arms from dishonor & disgrace by making the neceſsary provisions, — He is not responsible on this point.

The Quarter Master General at a most critical period has signified an inclination to resign, this Morning will probably produce an acceptance but not without traits of displeasure — the present conduct of that Gentleman seems to give much diſsatisfaction within doors. — what can have tempted him to treat Congreſs with sneer & sarcasm? he applies to them the odious epithet, Administration, & is so fond of the conceit as to repeat & reiterate his wit.

The General Officers in the same unlucky moment remonstrate for means which shall enable them to dress & keep Tables upon a par with Officers of their Rank in the Army of our Ally — a friend of yours says Aye! the demand is reasonable, — a Warrant moreover should

should be Iſsued for furnishing them with equipages good breeding & education equally with the French Nobility. said Officers, "to be accountable"— these are cursed troublesome affairs in a cursed troublesome conjuncture of knotty points— Majr. Gen. McDougal I am told is waiting an answer. but we have not yet determined that Congreſs shall be enabled to live in splendor equal to that of the Minister of France, nor that the American Minister at Versailles shall cut as superb a figure as the Venetian Ambaſsador.— 'tis to be hoped the General Officers will not insist upon taking by force the right hand of Fellowship. what shall we conclude of the designs of Gentlemen who demand what they know cannot be granted. O Virtue! O Patriotism! whither are ye fled!

Undoubtedly Mr. Lovel has written to you respecting Mr. A Lee & Mr. Izard, therefore I shall say nothing.

The Laws lately enacted in your State appear all to be salutary & I hope the good views of the Legislature will be fully accomplished; I think it most probable, the Men raised in Virginia will be destined for Southern service, a Committee will report on that head to morrow, after all, the want of Money & the want of virtue which comprehends the want of every thing, presents to my mind an unfavorable prospect. Governor Rutledge attends the Committee alluded to & will proceed to the Army under Genl. Gates when the buſineſs in hand is compleated.

I have been waiting here upwards of three Weeks in perfect readineſs for embarkation, Congreſs having Resolved that it is highly neceſsary I should proceed to Holland; I am not of their opinion but will nevertheleſs go whenever their Lordships of the Admiralty shall have equipped a Little Packet Boat which Mr. Laurens would have turned his back upon, the buſineſs might have been done in three days, but say they, we want Money, we want — we want — the Wheels are clogged. poſsibly I may be called upon to morrow perhaps not these ten days, the suspense is painful, & if my presence is

(No 347) (H. Laurens Letters) etc

is at all wanted yonder, the delay must be extremely detrimental to the Public Interest.

(No 203.)

Inclosed with this you will receive two of Dunlap's Papers to which I beg leave to refer, I also beg you to present my best Compliments to Mr. Lee & the Families at Chantilly & Menokin, should I go from hence without paying my duty to Col.o F. Lee, I will certainly allow large Interest in transmissions from Europe.

With every good wish & with the highest Esteem & Regard I conclude

My Dear Sir

Your affectionate & Obedient

humble Servant

Henry Laurens.

H. Laurens

No. 3~~4~~ ~~243~~

The Honorable

Richd. Hen: Lee Esquire

Virginia

Aug. 5. 1780

To Captain Peter Landais.

On board the Alliance [illegible]

11 O'Clock Saturday Augt 5th 1780

We being embarked in this Ship as Passengers on the Promise [illegible] of going with all the speed possible [illegible] to the United States of America, do request of you to make sail for that purpose. We feel the loitering here & looking for favorable Winds is more particularly improper & dangerous, as it is within the cruise of a fifty Gun Ship of the Enemy & we have seen the whole Ships Company manifest to you the strongest dissatisfaction at your refusal to make sail, so that it appears to us that this delay is risquing the loss of the Ship & all that is in her.

We are, Sir, Your most Obedt
Humble Servants. (Signed)

Arthur Lee. Pontgibaud. La Colombe. Poirey. Ludwell Lee. Thomas Lee. John Middleton. E. Brush. Joseph Wilkinson. Joseph Brown Junr. John G. Frazer. Henry Ash. M. Copyn. M. Livingston.

The Delegates

for

Northumberland

Reply to the British Commrs by R.H. Lee '78

Letter from R.H.L. to A. Lee 1776.

Barkely's Conversation

Ld North

Letter from Wythe & Pendleton &c

Association in 1780

Westmoreland August the 8th 1780

We who subscribe this paper do heartily approve the principles and determinations that are contained in the above association and will enforce the same to the utmost of our power

Richard Henry Lee
Richard Lee
Phil. Rd. Fendall
Thos. Smith
Jno. Turberville
Wm. Augt. Washington
Philip Smith
John Auge. Washington
Geo: Steptoe
Philip Lee
Jas: Washington
Jno. Cunningham
Samuel Kemp
Thos. Jett
Lewis Smith
Jos. Lane.
Thos. Chilton
Benja. Weeks
Richd. Parker
Wm. Berryman
Alex: Sparke
James Triplett

July 14 - 1780

An ASSOCIATION *entered into and ſigned by a* MAJORITY *of the* MEMBERS *of the* GENERAL ASSEMBLY *on the day of their adjournment, and at their requeſt* PUBLISHED *for the conſideration of the* PEOPLE.

WHEN the *Britiſh* enemy, to whoſe brutal fury the bloody regiſter of war contains no parallel, place their hopes of conqueſt not in arms alone, but expect it from a publick bankruptcy alſo, the name of *America* is too ſacred in the annals of a five years glorious oppoſition to be ſullied by drawing forth our reſources with a reluctant hand. The depreciation of our paper credit has ſo far gratified their views as to embarraſs, though it has not deſtroyed us. So nearly however has this embarraſſment approached to final ruin, that decided meaſures afford the only proſpect of relief. The Continental Congreſs have accordingly interpoſed, at various ſtages of this difficulty, and by their reſolutions of the 18th of *March* laſt, recommended a ſcheme of finance, which the legiſlature of *Virginia* have adopted. To remedy this evil by the diſcordant ſyſtems of individual ſtates was impoſſible, and to ſhare one common fate, the language of the *American* union. The legiſlature could not but remember the profeſſions of their conſtituents at the commencement of the war, by which the whole ſum of their property was devoted to the general cauſe, and muſt therefore have concluded, that taxes impoſed for this purpoſe, could not fail of their ſanction. But ſince from the beginning of hoſtilities, to divide us has been the object of our foes, and of their emiſſaries, it is time to ſuppreſs, by generous aſſociations, the virulence of their malice.

It is not the character of *Virginia* to be perfidious; and therefore it accords not with the temper of her ſons to permit the *American* cauſe to ſuffer diminution or decay, by neglecting to levy thoſe troops which her own importance in the ſcale of the United States, and her own conſent have aſſigned to her. The act of the General Aſſembly to this effect ought to be received with cordiality, and enforced, and deſertions not only diſcouraged, but proſecuted with the warmeſt zeal. To detect and puniſh offenders in ſuch fatal inſtances is the duty even of him whoſe wiſhes go no farther than to eſcape the violence of *Britiſh* vengeance. How much more is it the part of thoſe who aim at the eſtabliſhment of an aſylum to the perſecuted favourers of liberty, who mean to be governed by the dominion of law, inſtead of the caprice of a Monarch? In a criſis like this, a regard for the publick ſafety ſuperſedes the delicacy of becoming an informer, and demands the execution of the laws. Our criminal juriſprudence wants not an edge, if thoſe to whoſe knowledge theſe offences come would unſheath its ſword againſt the culprits.

Although every right of a citizen ought at all times to be reſpected, yet during the neceſſities of war, ſcruples are dangerous, when they withhold ſupplies from the army, and when a complete equipment for war frequently amounts by anticipation to the repulſe of an invaſion. Theſe conſiderations gave birth to the law for impreſſing proviſions; the ſeeming rigour of which is loſt by affecting all, and being leſs ſevere on the poor than on thoſe whoſe fortunes have furniſhed them with larger ſtocks.

From the matureſt review of the preceding points of duty, and from a determination that the precious depoſit of freedom ſhall not be wreſted from us through any ſupineneſs or langour, we whoſe names are hereunto ſubſcribed, do aſſociate and pledge ourſelves each to the other, by the ſacred ties of honour to the following purport: Immediately upon our return to our reſpective counties, we will, at publick meetings and upon other occaſions, take every opportunity of ſtating to the people the funds of the country, and the ſituation of our army. We will explain to them the act *For calling in and redeeming the money now in circulation, and for emitting and funding new bills of credit, according to the reſolutions of Congreſs of the 18th of* March *laſt;* and repreſent to them the impracticability of a reform of our finances by the ſeparate remedy of any one ſtate, occaſioned in part by the general diffuſion of the continental bills of credit throughout *America;* the abſolute neceſſity for the interpoſition of Congreſs to recommend ſome plan which might be uniformly obſerved; the unreaſonableneſs of thoſe who expected to receive, for ſervices intrinſically worth only one dollar in coin, forty paper dollars equal in value; the ſtability of the new bills of credit by being emitted on certain funds, and of courſe the ceſſation of every cauſe of depreciation, except the inſidious practices of the diſaffected; the futility of thoſe objections which ſuppoſe that it may hereafter be expedient to repeat ſimilar meaſures with reſpect to the new bills of credit, by ſhewing the improbability of like difficulties on their account; the moderation of the taxes compared with the end, for which they are impoſed; the great eaſe which the people receive by the obſervance of the recommendation of Congreſs, and the efficacy of unanimity in carrying this law into execution, and in paying the taxes with cheerfulneſs. We will inform them of the act *For procuring a ſupply of proviſions and other neceſſaries for the uſe of the army,* and of the urgent wants of the army; how ſhameful and ruinous would it be to expoſe our allies to injury from the ſcantineſs of ſupplies; how little danger the power of impreſſing carries with it, when neither elevation of rank, nor diſtinction of perſons grants a protection from it. We will alſo acquaint them with the act *For recruiting the quota of this ſtate in the continental army,* and remind them how much to the intereſt of *America* it is to ſecure her independency by exertions of her own native forces; that an inſtantaneous and bold diſplay of her ſtrength during this campaign may draw the war to a more ſpeedy concluſion; that the army ought therefore to be recruited with alacrity, and expedition, and deſerters brought to puniſhment. We will at the ſame time exhort them to drag before proper tribunals, all thoſe who weaken the nerves of *America* by ſecret inſinuations, or open attacks, and to inform againſt ſuch offenders as being the pious act of virtuous citizens. We will not aſk from others what we ourſelves are not ready to perform, but will endeavour to enſure, by our own example, a ſtrict attention to the preceding engagements. We will offer to the people a copy of this aſſociation, and procure their ſignatures thereto, as an evidence of their willingneſs to co-operate with us. We will invite them to depute ſuch a number of themſelves as may be requiſite to eſtabliſh general rules for aiding theſe laudable purpoſes. In confirmation of the above, we hereunto affix our hands this fourteenth day of *July,* 1780.

To his Excellency S. Huntington Esqr. P. C.

Sir Passy August 9. 1780

17 44

With this yr. Exy will receive a Copy of my last dated May 31. Mr. Adams has given Offence here to the Court, by some Sentiments & Expressions contained in several of his Letters written to the Count de Vergennes. I mention this with Reluctance, tho' perhaps it would have been my Duty to acquaint you with such a Circumstance even were it not required of me by the Minister himself. He has sent me Copies of the Correspondence desiring I would communicate them to Congress, & I send them herewith. Mr. Adams did not show me his Letters before he sent them. I have in a former Letter to Mr. Lovell mentioned some of the Inconveniencies that attend the having more than one Minister at the same Court, one of which Inconveniencies is, that they do not always hold the same Language, & that the Impressions made by one & intended for the Service of his Constituents, may be effaced by the Discourse of the other. It is true that Mr. Adams's proper Business is elsewhere, but the time not being come for that Business & having nothing else here wherewith to employ himself, he seems to have endeavourd supplying what he may suppose my Negociations defective in. He thinks as he tells me himself that America has been too free in Expressions of Gratitude to France, for that she is more obliged to us, than we to her, & that we should shew Spirit in our Applications. I apprehend that he mistakes his Ground & that this Court is to be treated with Decency & Delicacy. The King, a young & virtuous Prince, has I am persuaded a Pleasure in reflecting on the generous Benevolence of the Action in assisting an oppressed people & proposes it as part of the glory of his reign. I think it right to increase their pleasure by our thankful acknowledgments & that such an expression of gratitude is not only our duty but our interest. A different conduct seems to me not only what is improper & unbecoming but what may be hurtful to us. Mr Adams, on the other hand, who at the same time means our welfare & interest as much as I or any man can do, seems to think a little apparent stoutness & greater air of independence & boldness in our demands will procure us more ample assistance. It is for Congress to judge & regulate their affairs accordingly. Mr de Vergennes, who appears much offended, told me yesterday that he would enter into no farther discussions with Mr Adams, nor answer any more of his letters. He is gone to Holland, to try, as he told me, whether some thing might not be done to render us a little less dependent on France. He says the ideas of this Court & those of the People of America are so totally different as that it is impossible for any Minister to please both. He ought to know America better than I do, having been there lately, & he may chuse to do what he thinks will best please the People of America. But when I consider the expressions of Congress in many of their public Acts & particularly in their letter to the Chevr. de la Luzerne of the 24th of May last, I cannot but imagine that he mistakes the sentiments of a few for a general opinion. It is my intention while I stay here to procure what advantages I can for our Country by endeavouring to please the Court, & I wish I could prevent any thing from being said by any of our Countrymen here, that may have a contrary effect, & increase an opinion lately showing itself in Paris, that we seek a difference & with a view of reconciling ourselves to England. Some of them have of late been very indiscreet in their Conversations.

mean John Adams

Sir

We the officers of the Ship Alliance think it our duty to represent to you that it is our firm oppinion, that in the present State of the Ship & from the present temper & disposition of the people on board it is most prudent & safe to get into the first port we can make And that it is very Unsafe for us to Continue at Sea a moment Longer than is Absolutely Necessary

We are with respect your &c

N Blodget
Thos Hinsdale
Geo: Thayer
Saml Guild
Jos: Willson
Geo: Raymond

Signd John Buckley
James Lynd
M Park
Jno Larchar
Jams Warren
Thos Elwood
Benja Pierce
Jno Darling
Jams Bragg
Isaac Carr

On board the Ship Alliance
at Sea Augt 10: 1780

To P Landais Esqr Captn of the Alliance

We the officers of the Contl. Frigate Alliance having in a body waited on Captain P. Landais in a Respectfull manner to represent to him the alarming Situation of this Sd. Frigate from the discontent of the people, which is now of the most Serious Nature being universal & fermented to a great Degree: Captain Landais Refuse to Receive the foregoing Letter and three Several attemp were made to Read it to him, but by a Continual vociferous declaration that he would neither hear or Receive any thing from us, No part of it could be made intelligable to him, and we were obledged to withdraw without obtaining the Satisfaction of being attende to in this piece of Duty which we are Concious we owe to him & our Country

We did again send into the Cabbin to desire to represent further to the Captain the increa ing Confusion of the Ship. he having Refused to hear us pleading himself Sick & we now in the most formal our protest against the Behaviour of the S.^d Captain Landais ... And we now with a View to preserve the Ship from the Calamitous circumstances with which She is Now threatned, And by the advice of a Number of Gentlemen Passengers on Board to appoint Somebody to Conduct her home, think it our duty to Desire Mr Diggs our first Lieu^t to Assume the Command of this Frigate & to make for the first port in America, as the most sure, & allmost only Method remaining of having her restored to our Country in Safety —

Accordingly Mr James Diggs first Lieut Of the Alliance Frigate is Desired by us the undersigned to take the Command of the Said Frigate and to Conduct her with all Possible expedition into the first port in America that he Can make: Signd Jno Buckley

N Blodget
Fitch Pool
Jno Gavin

Ship Alliance at
Sea Latt: 41:30
Long: 59 —:
To Mr Ja^s Diggs:

Ja^s Bragg
Jno Darling
Thos Hinsdale
Saml Guild
Geo: Thayer
Geo: Raymond
Isaac Carr

Ja^s Lynd
Jno Lauthar
H Parke
Jam^s Warren
Thos Ellwood
Benj^a Pierce
Jn: Willson

No. 11. [illegible] 8 Aug. 1780

[illegible] we have not heard of you since you sailed our warmest wishes for your safety make us hope that you are now safe arrived & I beg you will not lose an instant in obtaining from the State of Virg.a a remittance to pay for the freight of the goods sent last year in y.e Livingston & Mary Fra: [illegible]. There is lately arrived at Bourdeaux 100 hhds of Tob.o belonging to the State & consign'd to Penet & Co. but no order for payment of the freight or any part of the goods; the house that never did, nor never can, even if they were willing, advance a shilling for the State, is in possession of very large funds belonging to the State, while those who have serv'd it & advanced their money, are left in the lurch. Such conduct is not likely to gain the State very high credit.

In the place you left things seem to go on as they did. the old man seems to have taken his Line & to treat the Placeable Minister with as much, or rather more indifference than he ever did any one before. Even the most triffling things are conceal'd from him, so as to give a general Idea of his utter insignificance. It may be of use to be known that the Countess of Scarbro' sold at Dunkirk for very near 100,000 Livres, the Serapis being so fine a vessel, no doubt sold for a Million at least. Count D'Estaing is gone to Cadiz to take command of y.e Allied fleet, w.ch probably will not be able to join the ships at Brest this season, as the English fleet by this time 40 line of battle ships strong are cruizing off Cape Finisterre & Corunna.

The Russian fleet of 13 Ships is ar.d at the Texel & the Dutch fleet nearly ready for Sea, the Northern League between Holland, Russ.a Sweden & Denmark is agreed on, which is the most fatal blow to the Eng.h domination on the high Seas that they have experienced this Century & must finally, in spite of all their blunders past & present, give the Victory to their Enemies. Virginia & N. Carol.a must prepare for a violent shock, as the force of the Enemy is order'd to be directed against those States, next Fall, Winter & Spring

167/11

unless Clinton sh.d have work enough cut out for him ab.t N.

To aid this plan, the Tories in Engl.d, at least the intriguing le
raders among them, that came from N. C. Virg.a & Maryl.d are sen
~~home~~ back & to submit to the present Governm.t there, that th
may serve as Spies for the Army & create dissensions & distracti
by their intrigues among the People. The shock occasion'd by the
tak.g of Cha.s Town, which was ten times greater than it otherwise
w.d have been, from the publication of that vile Forgery, of a Letter
from Clinton to L.d G. G., has pretty well gone over, & our friends
in Europe seem as confident of our success as ever; but I say a
continuance a repetition of such a dirty practice, for it is too bas
for any but our Enemies to use. The riots in Engl.d are ended
abt. 4 or 500 people kill'd by the Soldiery, 40 or 50 hung, L.d G. G.
is still in y.e Tower & houses &c burnt to the value of above one
Million Sterl.g. The City of London & most parts of the Kingdom
thank.g the King most humbly for using Military instead of
Civil Law, so that a Revolution similar to that of the last in
Denmark, in its essential points, seems to have taken place in
England where the King is happy, hav.g become absolute. The
People in Ireland seem still determin'd to support their rights
tho' their Parliam.t has latterly become as complaisant as that
in England. Urge our b.r F. L. L. to send some acc.t of my priv.
affairs in his care & let me hear from you frequently. You hav
the best wishes of all here & we desire you to present our aff.t
Love to all friends & ye well wisher. Adieu W. L.

Arthur Lee's return to America.

A. Lee to Count Sarsfield.

Boston, Aug. 26, 1780.—"I arrived at this place on the 15th instant, after a passage of 30 days. The confusion and difficulties which attended our departure pursued us during the passage, insomuch that for the unexampled ill behavior of Capt. Landais, whose reason appears to have suffered by his misfortune in France, he was at length obliged to abdicate the command, and the frigate was brought in here by the first Lieutenant. This necessarily produces courts of inquiry and trials here, so that our confusions and difficulties seem never to have an end."

P. in 5 M.

Augt 28. 1780 Philada

(No 348)

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to congratulate you on the safe arrival of your Brother & two sons at Boston in the Alliance – Major Frazier of Virginia who came with them to Boston is arrived here in a Boston Schooner in 9 days, I have seen him, he says they had a fine passage of 7 weeks left L'orient 8 July, no second division of french men had sailed; we expect letters from Mr Lee tomorrow by the post – Frazier thinks they will come on immediately – suppose you come here & meet them you will certainly be of great use – Major Frazier speaks highly of both your Son but very highly of one of them. –

Mr Izard & I talk of going to head Quarters on Wednesday to meet them I shall give all the assistance in my power to bring them on. I wish they had arrived here however Thank god they are safely arrived

Your's affectly W. Shippen

(~~No 427~~)
(No 348)

Dr Wm Shippen Jr
Aug. 28th 1780

(Copy entire)

Richard Henry Lee Esqr

Dr Shippen
Augt 1780

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288

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No 427.

Pen S. L. M

My dear Brother (No 337) Chantilly August 31st 1780

After more than four months from its date your letter from Orient of April the 3d reached me at this place. I very much approve the plan you propose to pursue on your arrival at Philadelphia — to obtain from the present Congreſs a full justification of yourself is highly proper, and it is most justly due to you upon the strong principles of your public services, and the injuries you have received from "public acts" which in consideration of the former, ought to have conveyed honor and favor, not countenance to the false, wicked, and vile insinuations and arts of your abandoned enemies. When this full and unequivocal justification is obtained, some repose may be neceſsary, as it is certainly due to your long and active services. But in a cause like ours your patriotism will suggest that whilst any thing remains to do, nothing is done — At all events I hope we shall have the happineſs of seeing you here when you have done with Congreſs — but previous to your coming, might it not be well to consider upon, and fix with your friends your future residence as the best for practising the law. This profeſsion you may depend upon it, entered on and practised with reputation will presently secure to you the influence that you deserve, and enable you to command what you please in the state where you live. Philadelphia or Boston seem to me to be the only Theatres for great Actors to play upon. Our most worthy and wise friend Samuel Adams Esqr can advise you respecting the latter; and intelligence of the former may be well obtained from Chief Justice McKean, the Attorney general Mr Sergeant, and President Reed — The first of these gentlemen is your friend, and he is one of those few whom I have known in Congreſs from its commencement in 1774, and whom I have found uniformly firm, sensible, and attached to the cause of America upon the best principles. I recommend that gentleman to your particular attention. Mr Sergeant is popular, of republican principles, and very industrious in pursuit of his objects — his information and services may be useful, [but as he is a great 369 a XIX, some 80 b XI is neceſsary — 290 a XXV 308 a XVII is 51 a XXV 284 a VII 296 [illegible] and 338 b XVIII — his 44 b XII may incline him

him not to desire that 260 61 347a X111's should be probed since it may b[illegible] leſsen a great popularity; and this principle may induce him to 159 6X1 if he does not 159 6111 a friendship for you, and so seem to forget the anecdotes you have formerly given of him] You know President Reed and his family – he is in general esteem and from his knowledge of men and things in Pennsylvania I should suppose he can give you the best advice concerning the practise of law in Philadelphia – Surely when such a flutterer upon the surface as Gouverneur Morris can live at all, that you may greatly profit by the pursuit of law. With respect to the obtaining of your full justification from Congreſs, altho it is so justly your due, and so neceſsary to be obtained, yet you know that Men are such things as renders it wise to take measures even for coming at justice – You are too well acquainted with human nature not fully to feel the wisdom of Polonius's advice to his son "give every man your ear but few your voice" – I would not seem to know who were my enemies in Congreſs – but you will know your friends – the latter will have your voice whilst the former have only your ear – Mr. Samuel Adams may be "grappled to your soul with hooks of steel" – his friendship for you, his knowledge of men, and his wise penetration can and will wonderfully aſsist you with regard to men and measures. Most of the eastern delegates were your friends. Mr. Vandike from Delaware is very sensible, honest, and much your friend. Governor Bee of South Carolina is a gentleman of worth and sensible of the injustice you have received – But your friend Mr. Izard can inform you exactly concerning the South Carolina gentlemen – I must confeſs that I was surprised you had so far put your return to America in the power of Dr. Franklin as to commit yourself to the Alliance – the conscious guilt of that old man, and the wicked enmity he has practised and encouraged against you, must conspire to make him fear your arrival here, and instigate the fullest exertion of his art and malicious cunning supported by his present power to procure your detention in Europe. A thousand plausible pretexts would not be wanting to effect that purpose – It will give me infinite pleasure to learn that you are removed fr[illegible] the sphere of that [illegible] wicked

wicked old mans power and influence – and therefore I hope you will give me the earliest notice of your arrival at Philadelphia – If Ludwell is not useful to you there, I think he may benefit himself by repairing to Williamsburg and finishing his law studies under Mr. Wythe who is now most worthily employed in the character of Law professor at Willm & Mary College – Which professorship he discharges the duty of with wonderful ability both as to theory and practise. The sooner therefore that Ludwell gets under his tuition the better, meaning always that he must remain with you so long as he is useful to you. The times are amazingly expensive, more so by far than my means to hold pace with the general extravagance – Dr. Shippen can inform you whether Ludwell cannot conveniently get a passage for himself and baggage down the Delaware by water to Christeen in the passage boat, and secure a conveyance over from thence to Head of Elk – From thence he may readily get a passage to Annapolis by the way of Baltimore. At the latter of these places my friend Mr. Purveyance (either of the brothers) will advise and assist his further progress – Governor Lee of Maryland is his relation, if he passes thro Annapolis let him wait on the Governor, & Col. Lloyd if in Town – When he is at the head of Elk or Baltimore, if he can get certain intelligence that the Bay is clear of the enemies privateers and that our Vessels of war are in the Bay he may then come by water from those places with his baggage either to Potomac or Rappahanock – But on no account let him venture this water passage unless he is informed certainly of both the above circumstances, because the small armed ~~Vessels~~ Boats of the enemy are incessantly pushing in and out of the Bay, and they take many of the small vessels going down and use the people ill – this risk must not be encountered by Ludwell – if he comes by land from Philadelphia let him call on my friends Jacob Giles at Susquehanna, Mr. Purveyance at Baltimore – Mr. Diggs or Mr. West near Upper Marlborough, and Squire Lee at Ceder point.

I am my dear brothers most affectionate
faithful friend
Richard Henry Lee

R. H. Lee to Arthur Lee
Aug. 31st 1780

(No 33)

(~~148~~)

Arthur Lee esquire
at
Philadelphia.
Care of Mr. Shippen.

Gard 191,948 . 6
Bonds 49.677,14,8
Int. 2384,18 —
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For my Inspn

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No ~~449~~

Sir

Yrs. favor of the 22 came yesterday to hand. Mr. Bennet parted from me on Saturd. and probably will get home in less time than he came. I shall attend all in my power to the Subjects you have written about: but I am verily exceeding sick. confined to the House my Chamber & my Bed alternately. I have in vain dabled with Rhubarb. I go upon Tartar emetic this morning. I was in Bed yesterday when I ~~sent~~ prepared the Scrap for Dunlop. I was loath to let a post day go over without some continuance of the Vouchers of Deane's Infamy. Mr J Adams on hearing something relative to Mr. De Vergennes & A Lee, has sent me copies of his own Correspondence with that minister on the Subject of Deane's Publications in the course of which he gives that Testimony in Regard to A Lee & his Brothers Richard & Francis from personal Knowledge, which cannot fail to destroy any evil Impressions Made by Deane's Malignity; and which must do credit to the manly ingenuous Spirit of the Writer. Whenever I dare I will copy them. I must first translate the French, which is the full my present State of Health will allow. This morning came to hand what I now send. I have not examined them. but at the same Time Parliamentary Registers were delivered. I thought it Transgressn enough to frank the present. I will send the others by the first opportunity.

JL

Mr. Lovel 31st Augt
Containing Mr. Adams's letter
to Count Vergennes

10.50
2.
= 8.50

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Jamaica Plain [illegible]

Dear Sir

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
has been a faithful communicant [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] acquaintance [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Sir [illegible] Sept 15 17[illegible]

The [illegible] Esq. who I am persuaded has been a faithful [illegible] to the United States of America, being [illegible] to furnish him with some introductory letters to [illegible] [illegible] in his way to the [illegible] [illegible] a stranger might [illegible] [illegible] I have put [illegible] [illegible] of conversing with you should he stay [illegible] [illegible] will [illegible]

[illegible] your affectionate [illegible]

[illegible]

Boston 19th Septr 1780

My dear Sir,

This will be delivered to you by the Honorable Arthur Lee Esqr, who lately arrived here from France, and is now going to Philadelphia.

I need not mention to you the Political or Literary Accomplishments of this Gentleman, by which He has attracted such Esteem in Europe as well as America; the early and decided Part He took in Favor of our Liberties; his important public Employments; or the Zeal and Firmness with which He has served the United States: To these Things you are no Stranger — But an Opportunity of personally knowing a Gentleman with whose distinguished Reputation you were before acquainted, and of paying any Offices of Friendship to such a Friend of our Country must be highly pleasing to you.

I am Sir with much Respect and Affection

Your obedient
humble Servant
Saml: Cooper.

The Revd Mr Eliot.

Boston 19th Septr. 1780

My dear Sir,

The Honorable Arthur Lee Esqr. who not long since arrived here from France, will probably pass thro Middletown in his Way to Philadelphia.

The bare mention of this Gentleman's Name must immediately recall to your Mind his steady Patriotism; his important public Employments, and the long Series of Services which from the first Commencement of our Troubles his distinguished literary and political Abilities have rendered to the Cause of America.

You will be highly pleased, I am persuaded, with an Opportunity of conversing with this Gentleman, and of rendering any Offices of Friendship to such a Friend of our Country.

Wishing you and your Family all good Things, I am Sir, with great Regard and Friendship,

Your most obedient
and humble Servant

Saml. Cooper.

The Revd. Mr Huntington.

Boston 14th Septr. 1780

My dear Sir,

You will receive this from the Hand of the Honorable Arthur Lee Esqr, who lately arrived here from France, and will pass thro New-Haven in his Way to Philadelphia. To one so well acquainted as you are with those great Characters who have stood foremost in the American Cause, and whose distinguished Political and literary Abilities, have defended and advanced it, I need only mention the Name of Dr Lee. You know all the Rest; and how much our Country is indebted to the uncommon Services of this Gentleman. Should he find an Opportunity, it will give him Pleasure, to visit that Seat of Learning over which you so honorably preside.

Wishing it Prosperity, and the most brilliant Success to all your Exertions for the Promotion of Knowledge and Virtue, I am, Sir, with much Respect and Affection

Your most obedient
humble Servant

Saml Cooper:

The Revd Dr Stiles

His Excellency Baron de Breteuil

Sir/ Boston, Sepr 19th 1780

I promised to write to your Excellency when I reachd my own Country; & I now sit down to have that honor with a mixture of pain & pleasure. With pain, that I am obliged to tell you that our situation is [illegible] distress; & pleasure in the prospect that your Excellency's wisdom & influence in the Cabinet of Versailles will be exerted to relieve us. Both the honor & interest of France is clearly & deeply concernd in the establishment of the Independency of these United States. But I am greatly afraid, that unless she employs more adequate means we shall all fail of this important purpose.

The government of these States has hitherto conducted this war, thro infinite obstacles with Paper money, that is upon their credit. This money has been depreciating by rapid degrees till it is almost annihilated. In the mean time, the circumstances of the war have rendered it impossible for them to draw Silver or Gold into the Country, by Commerce, or into their treasury by taxes. The actual situation of our government therefore now is — that they have a war to carry on & their Country to defend in various parts, without money & without credit. Your Excellency may easily

conceive

conceive how, & how long such a war can be supported. The distress of what Army we have, can only be equalld by the difficulty of recruiting or augmenting it. The Militia are indeed numerous & spirited. But they are only an occasional Army; while that of the Enemy is permanent; & even [illegible] the Militia is called out, for want [illegible] [illegible]t be supported. It is therefore of absolute & indispensible necessity that France should furnish the government of these States with a sum of hard money sufficient to restore their credit; or else I see very little probability of its being possible to arrest the necessity of accommodation upon the best terms that can be obtaind. I am convinced that nothing but the last necessity will bring us to this accommodation; but I am as fully satisfyd that without the immediate aid of 30 or 40 millions of livres in Specie, that irresistible necessity will exist at the opening of the next campaign.

That your Excellency may form your own judgment of this, I will state the present & probable advantages of the Enemy.

They are about fifteen thousand strong in New-york; so that the utmost what Army we have can do is by the aid of strong positions to stand upon the defensive. Their fleet much superior to that of his Majesty keeps it blockt up at

Rhode Island, & the second Division with the Supplies absolutely necessary for the American troops which were to act with those of France not having been expedited, has compelled the first Division to remain entrenched on Rhode Island, filled with vexation & disappointment. Your Excelle[illegible] little is to be hoped from Fra[illegible] our & expectation of glory which an[illegible] is extinguished & how much injury this disappointment must bring upon the american Service in the minds of the french Army & Marine. To our Service it has not been less injurious. Six months were stated as adequate to the operations of the campaign, & Levies were made for that time, in great haste, at an immense expence in Bounties, which are necessarily attended with the imposition of heavy taxes. The time is almost expired & nothing done, in consequence of the 2d Division & the Supplies having been withheld. We have thus incurred a very heavy actual expence, set the example for greater in future Levies, & disappointed the expe[illegible] dejected the Spirits of our People. Those of the Enemy are naturally raised in proportion.

Such are the respective situations in the North. In the South, the prospect is still more gloomy.

The

The Enemy is entirely in Possession of Georgia & S. Carolina. Our Army under Genl. Gates, which was sent to oppose them, has been lately defeated after an obstinate & bloody battle, in which our best troops & Officers fell. It is therefore probable, that before the close of the campaign they will be in possession also of N. Carolina. This success gives them the infinite ad[illegible] [illegible] of the country from which they [illegible] [illegible]es for the next campaign. [illegible] [illegible]e, they will [illegible] campaign [illegible] [illegible] with the invasion of Virginia in the South, & the [illegible] of Rhode Island in the North, while the middle States are kept in check by movements [illegible] [illegible] from N. York. To oppose & frustrate them [illegible] [illegible] Armies are necessary, to pay & support [illegible] Money is indis[illegible] [illegible] there is not, in our situation, any human [illegible] of obtaining it but from [illegible] [illegible]. If [illegible] [illegible] not furnish it this [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] prey to the Enemy [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & France will [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]ggle.

[illegible] must be observed too that nothing but [illegible] [illegible] money will do, the power of drawing on [illegible] [illegible] from the small demand & depreciation of Bills, being found inadequate. But if the Sum I have mentioned is furnished, & the second Division & Supplies forwarded so as to prepare us for an early & active campaign the Enemy may yet be repelled, & this Country prevented from being added to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] already felt too formidable. With [illegible] this respect that no other alternative will be left to this unhappy Country but accommodation or destruction.

I have the honor to be &c

Dear Madam / Lebanon in Connecticut Sepr. 28th 1780

I had the honor of writing twice to you from Boston to send you an Order for what money I have at Bruxelles, least my Brother being absent & the unfavorable situation of Caroline sho subject you to difficulties; & to assure you that the advantage gaind by the Enemy in the late defeat of our Troops there is not so considerable as was at first represented, & as you will probably hear. Genl. Gates is re-enforced & will, ~~for~~ it is expected soon recommence his operations. The Enemy have not ventured to move a step forward which shews that the victory cost them dear. I have but one moment to beg my remembrances to our little friend & to assure you of the respect & esteem with which I have the honor to be most sincerely, Madam your most Obedt. Servt. Arthur Lee.

Messrs. Freres Overmans Negts. a Bruxelles

Gentlemen / Sepr. 28th 1780.

Please to pay to Mrs Izard the Monies belonging to me, in your hands.

A Madame
Madame Izard
a
Bruxelles

6

Mr. Lee 20 Septr. 1780

by Extract Dr. Rej Zj

by ~~Extract~~

(Prima) (No. 338) Anvers Octr. 8. 1780.

Dear Sir.

I am sorry to inform you that your intended Minister to Holland, Mr. Henry Laurens, was taken by two English Frigates on the Banks of Newfoundland & is brôt prisoner to England where by the last acct. he was very ill at a little place in Devonshire so as to be unable to be brôt to London. The English papers give out that all his papers, instructions & comiſsion were taken also, but this is not believ'd by those that know the Arts & duplicity of your Enemies; however this seems authentic, that Genl. Clintons Dispatches dated the latter end of Augt. demand a reinforcement of 10000 Men, which if not sent, he insisted on being recall'd. On this the King & his Council determin'd that Clinton shd. immedy. be inform'd that his conduct was in all respects highly approved & that he shd. have the aſsistance requir'd as soon as poſsible — Genl. Faucett is to go immedy. to Germany to make fresh contracts if he can for new bodies of troops & to hasten the levying recruits for the German Corps already in Amca. — & if no aſsistance can be got from Germany G. B. & Ireland are to be glean'd of all the regular troops to send to Clinton. This is the present determination, as all fear of an invasion is over, since the French seem to relinquish any such design, but what change may take place if Jamaica shd. be taken I can't tell; nor can I say whether the Dutch will defend their poſseſsions in the W. Indias, or their trade both of which have been & continue daily to be attacked by the Engh. Portugal has at last driven the English Ships of War & Privateers from her Ports & forbid them or their prizes to enter there again.

The division which was to have follow'd Monsr. Ternay has not yet sail'd from Brest, it is said, that it is to sail the 15. inst., but yr. Enemys are prepar.g a larger squadron of Ships to follow it, either to Amca. or or the W. Indias. You will hear from me more at large by the first sure conveyance. Your friends in this quarter are all as well as the times will permit. With high respect I remain Dr Sir

Yr. Ob. Se

Le Baron de Bach.

P.S. Take care of some Marylanders that have been lately sent from England as it is confidently said, with permission to take the Oaths to the present Government: in order the more effectually to create Divisions in that State; by means of their connections there, which are said to be among the principal families in that Country.

Your Enemies still dream of unconditional submission only.

To

The Honorable
Arthur Lee Esqr
of
Virginia

If The Honble Arthur Lee Esqr is not
safely arrived in America: It is requested
that this Letter may be safely & speedily forward
:ed to The Honble Richard Henry Lee Esqr
at Chantilly on Potomack River, Westmore
:land County ——— Virginia ———

Le Baron de Bach, alias Wm Lee

Oct. 8th 1780

~~No 30~~

of no moment

(No 338)

No. 30.

D. zu 5 L. Ber.

[No 349]

Sir Philadelphia 15th Octr 1780.

I am just returned to this City from an excursion of some weeks, & am favoured with your Letter of 26th August. The Parliamentary Registers were committed to the care of Mr A. Lee in France. He is arrived in Philadelphia, & I dare say will forward them to you soon. I am perfectly of your opinion that the political salvation of America depends upon the recalling of Dr Franklin. This opinion I have made publicly known; whether any good effect will be produced by it, a little time will discover. Soon after my arrival here I wrote to Congreſs, & informed

them that I was ready to give them any
information in my power respecting their
affairs in Europe. Mr. McKean, Mr. Lovell,
& Mr. Maddison were appointed a Committee
to confer with me. The Report contained
simply an approbation of my conduct,
without mentioning anything respecting
Dr. Franklin. This was done on account
of your Brother's arrival being daily
expected, & therefore I did not preſs
for any addition to the Report. He
intends applying soon to Congreſs for a
hearing, & I hope that the changes which
have been made in that body within the

last two years, will appear not to be for the worse. Since my return to America I have been two, or three Weeks at Head Quarters. A more deplorable situation than that of the Army can hardly be conceived; without cloaths, & pay, & frequently without victuals. While I was in Camp they were sometimes three days without tasting a morsel of meat. By the beginning of January the greatest part of them will return to their homes; & if Sr Henry Clinton should prove an Officer of enterprize, some fatal blow may be struck. It is to me most astonishing that America should so long suffer the War to be carried on by so foolish, & ruinous a system as that of inlisting Soldiers for six Months. Congreſs is now employed in digesting a plan for getting an Army for the War; but I fear some difficulties may arise from the want of money. If it is the intention of America to continue the War, it is absolutely neceſsary that she should receive a subsidy from France. Mr Neckar's system of economy will make it very difficult to obtain one; but I am of opinion that it is the duty of Congreſs to insist upon it, & to represent to the Court of France the danger of their being forced, by the people at large, into an accommodation with Great Britain should it be refused. Dr Franklin's connexions, & flatterers would deter him from enforcing such a requisition with proper spirit; nor is it clear to me that such a spirit exists in the Body who ought to instruct him on that subject.

Governor Rutledge writes from Hillsborough that the Enemy had advanced as far as Charlotte, & that no Virginians had joined our Army. Your State which at the beginning of the contest seemed to be the most animated, appears to have changed her sentiments in a very extraordinary manner. The number of Partizans which Mr. Deane has found there makes it very probable that the Emissaries of G. Britain have not been ineffectually employed. I have frequently heard that you have made use of every exertion in your power to recall your Countrymen to a sense of their duty. You will I hope continue your endeavours, &

at length prevail. Your present Delegates in Congreſs appear to me to be very worthy Men; I wish we might expect that you would be added to them, instead of Mr. Merriweather Smith. Accept of my thanks for your kind invitation. It is not impoſsible but I may, during the course of the Winter, travel to the Southward, & I shall certainly not enter Virginia without paying my Compliments to you. I am Sir with great regard, & affection

Your most obt. hble Servant

Ra. Izard. —

R. H. Lee Esqr.

P. S. A Vessel is just arrived from St Eustatia. Her news is that the Southampton Frigate had arrived at St Kitts. She, & the Ramilies of 74 Guns sailed from England as Convoy to a considerable fleet of Merchantmen; & off Cape Finesterre met the Spanish Fleet which took Fifty of them, among which were five, or six East Indiamen. The Letters from St Eustatia mention this as a fact which may be relied on. If so, it will put the Spaniards into great spirits, & will probably produce some good effects.

R. Izard Esqr. (No 349) (~~No 101.~~)

Ralph Izard
Oct. 15th 1780
(exc)

~~No 101~~

Anvers Octbr 17th 1780

Dear Sir

I have before given you notice that your Enemies had determin'd to make a strong push this Fall & Next Spring against North Carolina & Virginia & that on receiving a late demand from Genl. Clinton for a reinforcement of 10,000 Men, otherwise he insisted on leave to come home — the King & his Council decided to inform Genl. Clinton that his conduct was in all points highly approv'd & that he shd. have every aſsistance in their power to send him & as soon as poſsible. The veſsel with this reply to Clinton sail'd from England the 10th. instant for New York — So far you may rely on to be true.

A Gentleman from Paſsy, says that the Alliance was arriv'd at Boston, as Doctr. F. told him & that Capn. Landais had been put under an arrest. We have been highly disappointed in finding that the combin'd fleets in the West Indies have not attempted any thing this campaign, but perhaps they will not be idle in the Fall & Winter. Mr. Laurens the Minister from Congreſs to the States of Holland was taken on the banks of Newfoundland, carried to England & is committed to the Tower of London on suspicion of high Treason — His Matereäl papers were destroyed, but some letters of private correspondence on Mercantile affairs were taken with Mr. Laurens. Your Minister Mr. J. Adams has been for some time at Amsterdam & the other day a Member of Congreſs a Mr. S. paſsed thro' here in his way from Paris to Amstm, where it is said, he is under the guidance of Doctr. F. to negotiate the money buſineſs that Mr. Laurens was to have managed & some say he is to be Minister in Holland or Portugal — I know not whether he is in any public appointment, but he travels in the style of a Public Minister — Mr. Deane lives at Paſsy with Dr. B. These two it seems are in the Privy Council there. Capn. Paul Jones is still at L'Orient endeavoring to fit out the

Ariel

trial, in which he has hitherto found insurmountable difficulties. The Northern league of Neutrality is acceeded to by Holland & Portugal from which Kingdom the British Ships of War, Privateers & prizes are now excluded — ten Ships of the Line are now about sailing from Breist with ab.^t 5000 troops, some say to reinforce Monsr Ternay & others, that they are for the West Indias. In Europe the Belligerent Powers are on all sides busily preparing for another Campaign & in England orders are already issued for raising 9 new Regiments of Foot & one Regiment of Horse to reinforce the British Army in America, since they have little hope of getting a fresh supply of Men from Germany. Your spirited countrymen will no doubt be prepared to repel these invaders, as trium=phantly as they have hitherto done, those that preceded them.

With the highest Esteem & respect I have the Honor to be

Dear Sir

Your most Obliged Fr.^d &c

Le Baron de Bach

1 Genl Sullivan
2 S. Adams Ward & Lovell
3 Genl Cornell
4. Huntington
Woolcot
Root
5. Duane
6. Witherspone & Clerk
7. Clymer, Montgomery, Smith, Attlee
8. Mckeane, Vandyke
9. Carroll, Jenifer, Hanson, Johnson
10. Col. Bland, Madison & M. Smith
11. Jones, Sharpe
12, Matthews, Bee & Motte
13. Howley, Walton & Few

No. 32
1780

To The Honorable
Arthur Lee Esqr
of Virginia

Le Baron de Bach, alias Wm Lee
Oct. 17th 1780
(No 550)
(~~No 32~~.)

A. Lee to Count Sarsfield.

(Dep^t. of State)

Phil^d^a. Oct. 24. 1780. – "M. de la Luzerne I hear has conducted himself perfectly free from party. I am sorry I cannot say as much of M. Marbois, who seems closely knit with the remnants of the Deane faction, tho' they were dismissed from Congress for their conduct in that affair, and are I believe confirmed and dangerous 'tories". –

"In a few days the recall of Dr. Franklin will be moved for in Congress, but how it will be decided is very doubtful, – not for want of an almost universal persuasion of his unfitness and misconduct, but that there is an apprehension it will be disagreeable to the Court."

Philadelphia October 26. 1780

Sir

I have the Honor to transmit you the enclosed Copy of an Act of Congreſs, directing you to lay before them all the Information in your Power relative to our Affairs in Europe.

I am Sir
with Esteem & respect
your most obedient & humble Servant
Sam Huntington President

The Honorable
Arthur Lee Esquire

"the scholar, author, philosopher
and negotiatior"

The Honble

Messrs Maddison, Bee & [illegible]

Feby 10th 1779
Feby 25th 1779
April 20th 1779
The conduct of D^{r}. Le. & M^{r}. W.
about the Acc^{t} of the Letter
My observations on the Contract
with the Farmers Genl.
May 21st 1779

Gentlemen, Octr. 27th. 1780

The remainder of the Furniture, of which you ask the particulars, consists of Knives, Forks Spoons, plates & table Linnen, with two Iron travelling bedsteds, mattresses & Sheets. The exact quantity of these things I do not know, but they cannot be of much value; being broken Setts, & having been used for upwards of three years.

I have the honor to be
with the greatest respect
Gentlemen Yr. most obedt. Servt.
Arthur Lee

Morris Town, State of New Jersey Octr. 27. 1780

Sir,

I have been duly honored by your agreable favour of the 24th Ultimo, Inclosing a letter to the director general, which has been delivered. —

Since the 22d November, the date of a letter you mention to have received, I have wrote two other letters, containing such matters as I should be unwilling to have fallen into the poſseſsion of some persons, whose heads and hearts, are unworthy of my confidence, and who I fear have filch'd those letters under way, as you make no mention of having received them. —

It appears to me, Sir, your apprehensions are well founded, when you observe, "I fear the season is much too far advanced for any decisive operations to be attempted against New York, this campaign" &c. and that your queries claim the highest attention when you farther add, "may not the winter be most profitably employed in retaking Charles-Town, and recovering the two southern States, from our enemies &c". The reasons you mention in favour of the attempt, are weighty, and the succeſses, which have lately attended our Arms in that quarter render ~~your~~ the operations you have proposed, both for the winter & Spring, leſs hazardous. —

The spirited exertions of your State in raising three Thousand recruits for the Continental Army, and One thousand good western Militia, at so critical a period, evinces a redoubled attachment to our cause, and add much to the prospect of succeſs in our operations in that vicinity. —

I cannot quit the subject, without congratulating you

my

dy to R. H. Lee

my dear Sir, on the appointment of Major General Greene, to take the command of the Southern Army. That gentlemans great abilities in the field, — his extensive knowledge of the various departments in the Army, gives him the advantage of almost every other ~~gentlem~~ General Officer in America, in immediately reducing to order and System an army and affairs, which at present are almost "without form and void"

But alaſs of what avail will be the exertion of the greatest Generals, unleſs fully aided with men, money, and the other neceſsary supplies? In the present deranged situation of our public affairs, can this aid be furnished? — Our Treasury is empty — Our Military and ordnance Stores in that quarter are much exhausted — and I fear, the resources of that Country ~~in~~ under its present embarraſsments will prove incompetent for these other supplies. —

Your Zeal and exertion in the cause of our distreſsed Country on every former occasion forbids my mentioning a single argument to induce your utmost efforts in the present alarming conjuncture.

General Greene entertains a high opinion of your influence and abilities, and wishes for your aſsistance, in support of such measures as he may find neceſsary to adopt for recovering the Southern States, or rather what is more probable, to prevent the Enemy, from making further progreſs; and as the General is a gentleman in whom you may place the most unreserved confidence, not only as an Officer, but as a private gentleman, I have not the least reason to doubt but there will be a perfect harmony, and free correspondence, between you and that gentleman; and which I am sure will be aſsiduously cultivated on his part. —

The Honorable Arthur Lee, paſsed through this place a few days since, on his way to Philadelphia, but I was so unhappy as not

to

not to have the pleasure of seeing him, though I have been honored by a line from him since his arrival there.—

As the present situation of the southern States bespeaks the theatre of War, at least for the ensuing winter, I should esteem it an addition to the obligations I should otherwise be under, by being favored with a letter from you, as often as you may find opportunity and leisure for that purpose.—

With sentiments of real friendship,
I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most Obedient
And very Humble Servant
Nath'l Peabody

N. Peabody
Oct. 27. 1780.

Honorable
Richard Henry Lee, Esquire

N. Peabody

Octr 27. 1780.

Octr 2 1780
Admty to A Lee Esqr
Sundries respectg the
Alliance Frigate and
the Cloathing &c. to be
shipped in France

Admiralty

The Honorable
Arthur Lee Esqr

Admiralty Office Phil? October 28 1780

Sir

The Board of Admiralty have ordered me to request of you the favour of giving them a written testimony of every thing you know relative to the following points.

(Of the conduct of the persons concerned in fitting and lading the Continental frigate Alliance in France for America, & who those persons were.

What lading the said ship had on board?

Whether she was ballasted with Cannon, or Cannon shipped after she was ballasted?

Whether said frigate was fully laden?)

What you know of the Disputes & differences between Captains Jones & Landais?

How Captain Landais came to be put out of the Command of the frigate - how he recovered the Command, and in what manner he came away?

The reasons why the Cloathing & Military Stores purchased in France for

America were not shipped.

I have the honor to be &c Sir

Your very Obt Hble Servt.
By order John Brown
Secretary

The Honble
A. Lee Esq

Arthur Lee

Oct. 29, 1780. – When Lee returned to Philadelphia he applied to Congress to be heard at the bar in defence of himself against charges which had been made against him. He sent to Congreſs the snuffbox, which had been presented to him by the king on the occasion of his signing the treaty, and represented it as a testimony of the king's entire satisfaction with his conduct. A member proposed a resolution approving the conduct of Mr Lee, and the gratification of that body that he had satisfied the court of France. This proposition would probably have been carried at the moment, if a member had not arrested its progreſs by requiring it to be continued over one day. In the meantime the president saw M. Marbois, who communicated to him the parts of M. de Vergennes' letters mentioning Mr Lee, and from which it appeared that the French court was highly dissatisfied with him, and that the present was merely a matter of form, and was no indication of the king's sentiments respecting his character and conduct. Saml. Adams went to Marbois, and told him it would be particularly agreeable to the state of Maſsachusetts to have the resolution paſs, as Mr Lee had been long in the service of that state as agent in England; & Mr Adams inquired of Marbois if he could not testify, that the court of France were not dissatisfied with Mr Lee, although no direct mark of approbation had been given him. M. Marbois waived entering into the subject, as he had already made a full exposition to the president of Congress. When the motion was brought forward the next day it resulted in appointing a committee to examine the matter and report.

Marbois

Philadelphia
Arthur Lee Esq

Bordeaux 3 Nov 1780

Sir

By Mr Brush who handed me your favor of the 10th Sepr I received the agreeable advice of your safe arrival and hope you will at Congress meet the reception your disinterested and truely patriotick Conduct in this Kingdom so justly deserves. By the intelligence I have been able to colect the affairs run in the same line as at your departure. The Dimission of Monr de Sartine influenced on the Credit of C B de C and obliged him to suspend for some Days it is said the Contror G. l. has found it necessary to support him his acceptances are at present discharged a la Caisse de Discompte The Arrival of the fier Rodrigue came very

apropos

as it supposed a Capture of the th [illegible] was

very Cunning, since the arrival of Mr Deane

we hear no mention of him. I have been

out of the World for two months a [illegible]

fever confined me to my Bed thirty Days &

it has taken as long a time to restore me

to a State of Action. as I begin to resume

my former health soon get into the Chann

of occurrence   A large Ship of one

Thousand Tons lately from the East Indies

formerly an East India Man is fitting out

at this port by the Correspondent of L R & C

so soon as ready to proceed [illegible] and it

is said from thence to America. I have sh

on board fifty six pieces Cannon say 28 twenty

four pounders 28 eighteen Pounders being the

ordnance purchased by your joint orders

this

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by order of D. [illegible] which conforms [illegible] the orders of her being declared o the United States and accounts they are offers of our ships were refused inclosed you have Copy of the Conditions on which we offerd to Charter our Ships and for which we were at the Expence of an Expresh sent to Paris to ~~[illegible]~~ give two Days time in order hasten the Concern of the Ships and have them ready to sail with Mr D [illegible] which they would have done had our offers been accepted and the Clothing so much wanted would in due time have been safely landed but our Ships not belonging to the Confederation who could thereby reap no personal benefits made the offer appear too high and therefore rejected till their Vessel sail when it [illegible] am satisfied will cost the States double the freight we offerd

[illegible] Please not to forget our Claim against the State of Virginia with respect I am

your very hble servt

S Bond

The Ships duely equipt Victualed & mand to be ready to take on board Goods &c to Africa - Armed say fifty Men 20 pieces Artillery each

To take on board for account of the freighters Six hundred Tons

To be paid on signing Bills of Loading £5000 or ₶120,000

To be Insured by the freighters the Sum of 168m being 7/12th of the amount of the outfits that in Case of Loss the Owners would thereby realize the Capital - if arrived safe the freight paid by the States would defray the charges -

Mr Williams at Nantes received from Mr [illegible] &c answer to our express that our terms were too high — 5 April 1780

Philadelphia   Bordeaux 1 May 1780.
Arthur Lee Esqr

Sir

By Mr Brush who handed me your favour of the 10th Jany I received the agreable advice of your safe arrival and hope you will at Congress meet the reception your disinterested and truly patriotic conduct in this kingdom so justly deserves. By the best intelligence I have been able to collect the affairs run in the same line as of your departure. The dismission of Mons.r de [illegible] influences on the credit of Mr C. de B. and obliged him to suspend for some days. it is said the Comptroller has found it necessary to support him. His acceptances are at present discharged a la Caisse d escompte. The arrival of the Fier Rodrigue came very a propos as it supplied a [illegible] of which the owners were very craving. Since the arrival of Mr Deane we hear no mention of him. I have been out of the World for two months, a [illegible] fever confined me to my Bed thirty days and it has taken as long a time to restore me to a state of action and I begin to resume my [illegible] shall soon get into the channel of occurrences.

A large Ship of one thousand tons lately from the East Indies formerly an East India man is fitting out on this Coast by the correspondent of Le R. de C. & Co. in order to proceed to L'Orient and to [illegible] from France to America. I have Shipt on board fifty six pieces Canon say 28 twenty four pounders 28 eighteen pounders, being the ordonnance purchased under your joint order. This embarkation is made by order of [illegible] which confirms me in the opinion of her being destined to the United States and accounts why our offers of our Ships were refused. Inclosed you have Copy of the Conditions on which we offered to Charter our Ships and for which we was at the expence of an Express sent to Paris to save two days time in order to hasten the departure of the Ships and have them ready to sail with M. de Ternay which they would have done had our offers been accepted and the Cloathing so much wanted would in due time have been in Safety landed, but our Ships not belonging to the Confederates who could thereby reap no personal benefits made the offer appear too high and therefore rejected [illegible] the [illegible] Sail when she will

I am Satisfied with [illegible] the States double the
freight &c after [illegible] please not to forget
our Claim against the State of Virginia
with [illegible] I am

Sir

Your very ob^t Servant
John Bondfield

The Ships thirty Guns victuald & mand to be [illegible] to take [illegible] the [illegible] armed by [illegible] [illegible] of the Freighters [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to be received by the Freighters [illegible] the sum of 128 [illegible] 12 of the am^t of the [illegible] that in Case of [illegible] the owners [illegible] [illegible] the States [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

4 16

To
Arthur Lee Esqr
Philadelphia

Navy Board Boston
16th May 81 received
under cover & forwarded
by your most
Obedt Servt
Wm Vernon

My dear Brother (No. 351)

Philadelphia Novr. 1st 1780

This will be presented to you by Major General Green with whose high reputation as an Officer you must be acquainted. He comes to succeed Genl. Gates; & from the Conversations I have had with him seems to have very just ideas of our political situation.

I hope you will harmonize both in opinion & exertions for the Public, which from the influence of bad men seems nearly ruined. Congreſs seem indisposed to enter upon any serious inquiry; for the threats of Mr. Duane terrify them with the apprehension of reviving old diſsentions. It is impoſsible to say with any certainty when we shall get away from hence, which ill suits with my impatience to see you.

Farewell.

A. Lee

Richd Henry Lee Esqr

Virginia

By favor of his
Excellency
Maj. Genl. Green.

A. L. to R. H. L
Nov. 1780

1780.

Nov 1st 1780

(~~[illegible]~~)
(No 357)

No 146

~~[illegible]~~

[illegible] le 3 novembre 1780 mon [illegible]
a Paris de quelque [illegible] que ma lettre seront dattée

J'ay passé, Monsieur, mon été en Hollande, comme je crois que j'a[illegible] vous l'avois annoncé avant votre depart. J'étois environ 3 semaines sur le point de retourner a Paris lorsque j'apris que ma sœur etoit assez dangereusement malade. Je suis d'abord retourné auprès d'elle, je reviendray quand elle [illegible] partie. elle est encore tres éloignée de son retablissement.

Les Etats des provinces unies ne m'a pas permis d'écr[illegible] que de vous écrire [illegible] vous ne m'auriez assurement pas pu [illegible] la poste de hollande traverse les pays bas autrichiens. Il faut avoir a Paris un homme [illegible] qui me manquoit. aussi j'avois peu de chose a vous mander. Il s'y est cependant agité une affaire importante: celle de l'adhesion a la convention de la Neutralité armée faite entre la Russie et la Suede. Elle n'est pas encore terminée mais en fort bon train. la province de Hollande et celle de frise qui sont les plus importantes l'ont deja acceptée et on croit que les autres ne s'y refuseront pas.

J'ay eu le plaisir de voir a Amsterdam le Commodore Gilon et Mr Adams qui m'ont promis tous les deux de vous dire bien des choses de ma part quand ils vous écriroient comme ils me disoient qu'ils comptoient le faire par le premier batiment qui partiroit. Il n'en est point parti pendant mon sejour dans ce pais là, au moins n'en ai je pas été instruit. Il est vray que je n'ai été qu'une fois a Amsterdam.

J'ai vu aussi un moment en passant a Bruxelles la femme [illegible] les larmes aux yeux de la [illegible] de [illegible] qu'elle venoit d'apprendre. Elle et tous les siens se portoient fort bien. Quand vous verrez ou écrirez a son mari, je vous prie de lui dire

arthur lee Esq. Duplicata

bien des choses pour moy

Je m'attendois a la reception qui vous a été faite [illegible] et Je ne doute pas que vous n'en trouviez une pareille partout ou vous irez. Vous aurez surement appris avant de recevoir cette lettre le changement si important pour la cause commune qui vient d'avoir lieu dans le ministère de la marine. J'espere qu'il en apportera beaucoup aux succès de nos campagnes qui n'ont pas été tels qu'on [illegible] droit de l' [illegible] je prends beaucoup d'interet au nouveau Ministre mais il [illegible] me paroit a craindre que j'ay des relations et qu'il [illegible] independante comme elle le doit etre, de mes sentiments particuliers.

Vous avez donc parcouru ce fameux Champ de Bataille de Bunker's Hill. Ce combat sera une Epoque memorable dans vos annales. On regrette bien le brave Dr Warren. a t'on fait quelque chose pour sa memoire.

C'est une operation bien importante que celle du rappel de votre monnoie de papier pour lui substituer une nouvelle qui s'attirera plus de confiance. Elle est sure, cette operation, dès qu'elle [illegible] le commerce [illegible] parce qu'il est impossible que sous peu d'années vos affaires n'aient acquis un degré de solidité capable de rassurer les Esprits les plus timides.

adieu Monsieur. Ayez la bonté de continuer a me donner de vos nouvelles. Je serai exact a mon coté a vous ecrire lorsque le sejour de Paris pourra rendre mes lettres plus interessantes. Vous connoissez Monsieur mon sincere & inviolable attachement

Bruxelles Nov: 6. 1780.

D.r B.r (N.o 339)

~~was~~ I rec.d y.rs from Boston of July 9th & am well pleased at the determination to withhold your complaints for the present, rather than increase the public embarrassments by exposing them. M.rs ——d who is well & all her Family, burnt in my presence the order you sent her on Mess.rs O. as she said she sh.d not want it, & you might have occasion to dispose of the money otherways, tho' she was highly sensible of your attention in sending it to her. The capture of M.r Laurens, (who is comitted to the Tower of London for High Treason, & closely kept without the use of Pen or Ink, or permission to see his Friends) was doubly unfortunate as his papers were taken also, which has occasioned a memorial from the British court to the Prince of Orange relative to what has passed with the Regency of Amst.n, which he layed before the States of Hol.d; the Regency of Amst.n have avow'd their proceedings & demanded the concurrence of the States of Hol.d, what turn this business will take, time must discover, but nothing effectual can at any rate soon take place in our favor, as there is not any body fully authorized to act for America. M.r Adams is now & has been for some months at Amst.n where he seems decided to stay the Winter. M.r Searle is gone there I saw him in his way thro' this Town & was surprised at his not bringing me a single letter from any one. From some unlucky circumstances I had not an opp.ty of getting ~~from him~~ any material information from him relative to the actual situation of affairs in Am.a. By his style of travelling & proposed manner of living in Amst.n dur.g the winter, it seems ~~[illegible]~~ that he is on Public & not private business — he it is said professes a devoted attachment to 54 —. Russia, Sweden & Danmark have finally ratified their treaty of the Arm'd neutrality, on the original plan of Russia; Portugal has acceded to it, The Emperors of Turkey & Morocco have nearly adopted the same idea The States of Holland & Freesland have already & it is expected that the other 5 States of the Netherlands will very soon accede to the Russian system, so that G. B. has not a single ally in this part of the world but some of the insignificant Petty Princes in Germany.

The affairs ~~in~~ Ireland, still wear a serious aspect, but in England the

People grow every day more insensible & are now as contented Slaves as any in the World. The new Parliament is not a whit better than the old & the Minister or rather the K. will be as absolute as ever — Norton goes with a Pension to the Ho. of Peers, Cornwall is Speaker by a Majority of [illegible] Votes. Burke — Sawbridge, Hartley, Temple Luttrell, Cruger, Ld. G. Gordon are left out, but the two first will be brot in by & bye. The Parliamt. met ye. 31 Ulto. — The K. in his speech boasts of Victories in Carolina — The War must certainly be continued another year & demands supplies. The reinforcemts. for Ama. that are to sail as soon as possible, perhaps abt. Xmass, are to consist of 9 Regts. of Foot & 3 of Dragoons dismounted, to be remounted in Ama. — The Regts. of Foot by drafts from others are to be compleat 9,000 Men & the 3 Dragoons are to be 1000 Men, wch. in ye. whole is to make 10,000 compleat. The great push is to be made first on Virga. & N. Carolina; if success attends them there they are to advance Northwds. — The whole operations are to be against N. Ama. keeping on the defensive agt. F. & S. who are to be amused in the mean time with negotiations & advantageous Offers (which are never intended to be complyed with) to induce them to desert America. This you may be assured is the Enemies plan of Operations for the ensueing year.

On our Side, the Spaniards hear the proposals made to them without giving any reply, wch. induces the Ideot K. & his roguish Ministers to think they shall succeed in dividing the Allies as they have with their opponents at home. The division that was to have followed M. Ternay is still at Brest, but reported that it is to sail in 3 or 4 Weeks — The supplies for ye. Amn. Army that shd. have been sent away above 12 Mo. ago are still in ye. ports of France, in short the managemt. of yr. affairs there have gone from Bad to worse & unless the director is speedily changed the consequences will be severely felt. The change in the Minister of Marine in France it is expected will invigorate their operations — Chaumont has been lately at a stand (it is said) in his payments, but we hear Mr. Necker will countenance him, but this is only rumour. He says his engagements for Ama. have hurt him, when I know his unpaid accepted Bills have been travelling thro' Germany for some years past. — America must, as I always said, rely entirely on her own efforts, & then she may be sure of carrying her point — Think not of the conquest of Canada untill ~~[illegible]~~ the Enemy are quite driven from the 13 States; I can't enter into the reasons for [illegible] dvice, but believe me they are so important, that if the conquest of Canada is attempted, while you have a single Enemy within y.r boundaries, the consequences will be fatal. Mons.r Rochambaud & his troops sh.d be instantly ordered to Virginia. We have been very sickly this season & myself just recover.d from a dangerous dysentery. We send you our best Love & desire you will present the same ~~[illegible]~~ to all those in whose wellfare you know we are interested. Adieu

To the Hon.ble

Arthur Lee Esq.r

To the Care of Timothy Matlack Esq.r

Philadelphia

forwarded by Your most ob.t humb.l Serv.t
L'Orient ye 2d Dec.r 1780
Ja: Cumming

Wm Lee to Arthur Lee
Nov 6th 1780
(No 339)
(~~No 244~~)
(Copy kept)

No ~~X~~ 244

1780

[illegible] Warrasqueak Bay James River
Nov. 18th 1780

No. 352

My dear Sir

I had the honor of Addressing you the 16th Inst. from Stoners Mills, and then informed of the Enemies having finished their Embarkation on the 15th at 11 OClock in the morning. On the 15th & 16th they fell down Norfolk River and Stationed themselves under Sewells point where they remained all yesterday, the movement occasioned us to take the present position as the most convenient to Oppose them Should they have come up James River, leaving a light Corpse below under the command of Colo. Parker, with Pickets & Videtts so disposed as to communicate the Earliest Intelligence of any Movement they should make. We have a letter this moment from Colo. Parker [illegible] is inclosed to his Excellency the Gov. and to [illegible] beg leave to refer you for Particulars, and make no doubt you will, with me, be astonished at the Extraordinary Conduct of the Foe Men, having left behind them Several Captured Vessells as also most, or all of the Negroes they had taken as well as those that went over to them, this might be turned to our future Advantage, if properly represented. I have the hon[or] to be with high Esteem Yr.
Most Ob. Servt.
G. Weedon

My Compliments to the Smoaking Club.

Delegates of Virginia at Congress with Mer Smith

	By balance due the Delegates at settlement advanced for subsistance & to enable me to return to Virginia, to be remitted to them at Philadelphia	£8467.14—
1780 Sept. 4	Dr. To credit the State of Virginia for the above sum as so much advanced on Acct to me this day for the new delegation	£8933-7.4

N. B. If any allowance shall be requisite for depreciation upon a final settlement of Accounts between the Delegates and the Commonwealth M. Smith will be answerable for the same

True copy.

M. Smith

Genl Weedon

~~[illegible]~~ Nov. 18th 1780

No 357

[illegible]

Bruxelles 3 Dec.r 1780

My Dear Brother. (No 353)

Since mine by your Sons I have not rec.d any letter from you, but have written to you several; indeed since that I have heard but of very few arrivals in any part of Europe from Virg.a except the fleet that came under convoy of the Fier Roderigue. Mr. Bondfield promised me to settle the affair of your linnen with Capt. Gale as I desired it might be; Capt. Gale has long since sail'd for the W. Indias but I can't get an acknowledgem.t from Mr. Bondfield that he has rec.d the money. I shall write to him again in a few days on the subject.

No letter has come to me from Mr. Ellis since 1778, written a few months after he entered on the Estate; & being quite uninformed of the state of affairs in Virg.a or of the money in circulation or of the actual laws regulating the currency I cannot advise any particular plan of conducting the business but must refer to your discretion — however if at any time in the next year it becomes practicable to send me some Tob.o either to France or Holland I wish it may be done, only have the freight specified in the Bills of ladg & the Tob.o be consign'd to me or order. This I much fear will be impracticable as the London Gazette now tells us, that in Oct.r Clinton had sent from N. York a body of Forces to invade Virg.a — Orders for this purpose were sent from Engl.d last summer; since the middle of July repeated advice of this plan was sent to the present Governor of Virg.a that preparations might be made to give the Invaders a proper reception. These savage Robers, that are not to be equall'd in iniquity but by their Licenser, who is a more horrid wretch than any one among them, will I apprehend do a great deal of mischief to individuals; every thing moveable they will steal according to custom, & will burn & lay waste what they cannot carry off. Providence however seems to be compleating her great work of riding America of every Tory rascal & Traitor that is in it.

Tho' I believe there are very few of this description among you, yet I shall be happy to hear that the few there are openly declare themselves; as it is certain that one conceal'd Traitor is more dangerous to the Community than ten open Foes. For this reason I look on the discovery of Arnold's conspiracy as wonderfully fortunate to America; since no one cou'd doubt for some time past of there being a nest of Traitors harbor'd even in your very bosom & tho' the names of the leaders may have been sent on this side the Water

yet

yet I trust, a sufficient number of the principals will be discover'd to inflict exemplary punishment on, that others may be deter'd from similar attempts hereafter. It is most certain that the Enemy have thus long continued the War more in hopes of success from Bribery & Treachery than by the Force of their Arms, however they have determin'd in obedience to their Tyrant & Masters will, to try another campaign, but Clinton seeing things desperate, insists on being recalled — he comes home & 'tis that Cornwallis will command in cheif, he having become a wonderfull favorite with his master by the cruelties he has practised in Carolina. Clinton has demanded a reinforcement of 10000 men to maintain a defensive war — they have been promised tho' the impracticability of getting them is evident to every body, however Corns. will be wise to prepare in the best manner he can on the supposition that the whole 10000 will be sent. The [illegible] has now a valuable & interesting paper on the Br. Navy. The Dutch are arming by Sea with spirit & placing their Land forces in their maritime Towns, having at last come in to the armed neutrality with Russia Sweden & Denmark. These powers will have at Sea next spring a fleet of 50 Sail of the Line & as many Frigates to support the plan of Free commerce as published by Russia last Spring, which you must have seen, against the insolent pretensions of G. B. & the piratical robberies of her ~~Royal~~ Royal & private arm'd Vessels. We are on the Eve of a War, all the maritime powers of Europe agst. G. B. who is without a single Ally, unless the latter recedes from her illfounded claims & demands a Peace. France & Spain go on in their system & maintain a superiority in the European Seas — perhaps before this, if the winds & weather have not prevented, D'Estaing with 42 Sail of the Line has given Darby off Cape Finisterre with 26 Sail of the Line, a blow that the British Navy cannot recover this War. Your Agents in Spain have done nothing but get a little money; some of their old connections from the Island have been at Madrid for several months, which the sagacious Spaniard does not like & consequently fights shy. ~~Your~~ The Managemt. of yr. affairs in France seems to grow worse & worse, for the old Junto — S. D. in the midst of them have by some means or other got the whole managemt. uncontroul'd into their hands. A reform must take place there & by the capture of Mr. Laurens ~~your~~ affairs in Holland are not in so good a state as they might be — Mr. L. with all his letters & papers fell into the Enemies hands. When any person is sent to Europe in a public Character, he shd. at least have good ~~common~~ Sense. Surely the several States will now pay more attention than they have done lately

to the respectability of the persons that they send to represent them in Congs.
a little more steadineſs in rigidly adhering to fundamental resolutions
will give weight & consequence to their determinations — How an actual
Member of Congreſs can do his duty in Am.ca & execute commiſsions at
3000 Miles distance in person, is a problem that we thick headed
people here can't solve. What infatuation induces our Country again
to employ Genl. Stevens? Was not the loſs of the battle at German Town
sufficient? but the whole stake must be again lost at Camden. A defeat
of Cornwallis there wd. have ended the War. God Bleſs you all & believe
that we love you & yours sincerely. Adieu

1780

Richard Henry Lee Esqr
Chantilly, Westmoreland County
Potomack River

Virginia

[illegible]

3d. december 1780

No. ~~8~~ 250

Wm Lee
Decr. 3d 1780
(~~No 250~~)
(No 353)

read p[illegible]

[illegible] C[illegible],

[illegible] the [illegible] of your patience [illegible] important Services for North America, [illegible] in [illegible] the pamphlets, [illegible] which you assert in your defence [illegible]. — [illegible] against Silas Deane, [illegible] are real facts; truths acknowledged [illegible] with great [illegible], or [illegible] if they are, then every honest soul in America, and every well wisher to truth, honesty, and righteousness [illegible] the whole [illegible] must be [illegible] heart [illegible] innocent [illegible] the noble political [illegible] precious blood [illegible] the private views of a few [illegible] individuals [illegible] — [illegible] and [illegible] a Resolve [illegible] are faithful to their high trust, by employing none [illegible] faithful persons to act and transact [illegible] in Europe [illegible] I know the Secrets of Congress ought [illegible] but this is an affair of [illegible] by the right [illegible] that the public will be [illegible] hope will [illegible] truth and righteousness [illegible] the [illegible] in our American [illegible].

When great revolutions happen in our world, such as the fall of old and haughty Empires, Kingdoms, and young Kingdoms or Empires rise [illegible] their ruins, like the present State of the British Empire, and America now [illegible] to rise as a rejected part into form and State, [illegible] attended with very great convulsions in politics; Then the world has set before it a mirror, in which we may see human nature pictured to the life; and the picture is very odious to Beings of a refined and truly moral taste. For now those evil passions and insatiable appetites

Seem

Such as pride, lust of domination, avarice &c more dormant, like beasts of prey in their Caverns and rove at large after their prey — these are prevalent, but the reigning passions, appears to be [illegible] and did not invisible Wisdom & Goodness at present, devastation and total ruin would overspread our [illegible] table world! — for what ruin must come on our [illegible] States, if divine providence did not detect and prevent [illegible] tiable avaricious designs and cursed Schemes [illegible] your pamphlet. The sacred oracles tell us that the love of money is the root of all evil which while Some have coveted after, have pierced themselves through with many sorrows. The stronger and more [illegible] -ed the natural powers of any one man are, if he is not honest and [illegible] the more mischief he can do, and if he puts on the mask of great concern and goodness, he is a deceiver has it in his power to drive the fatal — dagger into the very vitals of the public which conspire in [illegible] may God deliver America from such Traitors!

When the great and blessed God has any important grand designs to be effected in the course of his invisible providence like those to be effected in the present day, he raises up and qualifies men as instruments in his hand to effect the designs; the greater any ones abilities and opportunities are, the stronger the obligations ~~upon~~ on him to be in the labouring cause and improve every talent to the best purpose. It is not flattery, which to a Gentleman of refined Sense is fulsome, but justice to say, that you are a Branch of a [illegible] and a leading Branch too, that kind Heaven has blessed with excellent natural abilities which you have improved with the [illegible] Education supported by an ample fortune. you have it eminently in your power to do great Services for a great good & suffering cause, and a bleeding Country; and blessed be God you have been able to distinguish yourselves; I wish you to persevere to the End; be not discouraged my great Good Sir, on ~~the~~ account of any ungrateful usage you may meet with — for man is but an ungrateful creature at best — the best of Services have often been but ill rewarded in our world: If you act from the noble motive of pleasing God in doing the best services in your power for distressed America

you

[illegible]

[illegible] delighted with [illegible] letter [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] believe [illegible] to be,

Honorable Sir,

your most obedient

very humble Servant.

Brandywine in
the County of Chester
[illegible] 1780

John Carmichael V.D.M.

The Honorable Arthur Lee Esq.

(No. 1) (No. 354) Anvers 6 Dec.r 1780

Dear Sir.

(Remember that all the Numbers with a line under them thus ———, are of the old list. ———)

We have heard from you from Boston & Lebanon & y.r two cor.resp.ts in this neighborhood have also heard from you. We are happy to hear of your safe arrival & also of the 6000 Acres of Land.

I have written to you frequently since you left us but as the capture of Y.r Minister M.r Laurens & the whole of his papers & letters, shows that the conveyance is not always safe; to show you how many letters miscarry they shall be number'd regularly begining with this No. 1.

Among M.r Laurens's papers was found the plan of a Treaty between the States of America & the 7 Provinces of the Netherlands which had been settled between your Friend & an Agent of the Pensionery & Regency of Amsterdam. This, with a copy of some of the letters were layed before the P. of O. by the British Ambassador Sir J. Yorke, & by the Prince before the States of Holland; expecting no doubt, that the Regency of Amst.dm w.d disavow or apologize to G. B. for the business. The Regency, on the contrary, openly maintain that they had done what was right & demanded of the States of Holland approbation of what had been done. This so irritated the B. Court, that S.r J. Y. was order'd, & did present, to the States General, the most extraordinary memorial that has been seen in Europe in this Century; you will see it in the Public prints; no answer has yet been given, for as it sounds like a declaration of War, the Dutch probably wait till the B. canon Roar, to which they are prepar'd to make a proper return. They have formally agreed to enter into the arm'd Neutrality with Russia Sweden & Denmark, which three, have already ratified their Treaties on the plan originally proposed by Russia. These 4 powers will have at Sea in the Spring a fleet of 50 Sail of the Line & as many Frigates, & if G. B. attacks Holl.d she attacks the other three or if she attempts to prevent either of them from supplying F. & Sp. with Naval Stores. Some people think G. B. will be mad enough to make this attempt, which must prove her ruin, as the inclosed paper must convince every impartial Man; but it seems more probable that this arm'd neutrality will produce a general Peace in 1781, especially if G. B. sh.d receive any check in her plans agt Ama — This is a critical moment for your Country as it a[illegible]ears very probable that the Northern Powers, with Holland, might now be easily induced to acknowlege your Independence, if you had proper Agents or Ministers in Europe to negotiate such an important buſineſs; for it is said that the K. of P. is yr frd, & that Austria has no very warm feelings for G.B. — But you have no Minister in this part of the World, there is a Mr Searle at Amstm who is said to be the Consul General of Ama in Hold & at the same time a member of Congreſs & a Colonel in yr Militia which people in general can't believe, because they see the impoſsibility of one Man's performing the Duties of those differt officers, at the same Period.

Your Minister in Spain & his Coadjutor have done nothing but got a little money, indeed your Enemies for several months have had two & three agents at Madrid publicly, who have contrived to come at yr friends, or to ——— so that your affairs there are no farther advanced than they were 12 Months ago. You have some able & respectable Roman Catholics among you, would not one of them be most proper to send as your representative to Spain. In France, the Ministry steadily pursue their old system, tho' Monsr. Sartine is turn'd out & the Marquis of Castries is in his place, therefore your Political affairs of course go on as they did, but the management of your other affairs, we are told, grows worse & worse. S. Deane lives at Paſsy & seems to direct & manage in yr buſineſs as formerly. The Supplies for yr Army that shd. have been ship'd last winter, are most of them still lying in the ports of France & the famous Paul Jones is now at Brest or L'Orient ~~and~~ the reinforcement that was to have follow'd Monsr. Ternay immedy is not yet gone, some say yr Minister is the cause, having hinted that it was not neceſsary, but this one can hardly believe. What the Cabinet of Versailles has determin'd (or what seems most probable that they have not determin'd any thing as yet) relative to the operations in Ama. next campaign the world is not inform'd. You will surely make a reform at least, in France & ~~confi~~ confine yr Minister to Politics & intrust solely to a Consul General or Mercantile agent, who shd. be formally introduced to the French Ministry, all your Monied & Mercantile transactions, purchasing & sending out the supplies for yr Army & supplying all your Ships of War that may enter the Ports of France. —

you know what the Enemy are doing with you, the design agt. Virga. the Govr. of that State has been frequently advised of, since the middle of July therefore it is supposed he will not be taken unprepar'd.

The discovery of Arnolds plot it is immagin'd will lead to the discovery & punishment of his principal associators so as to deter similar attempts hereafter; for tho' *some* of the leaders may have by their address got into appointmts. on this side the Water it is not impracticable to catch & Punish them. Curious & attentive observers think you have escaped the greatest danger that has ever threaten'd you, as the B. Ministry on the gaining *one* Arnold *alone*, are evidently more dejected than if they had lost a whole Army. Clinton had before demanded to be recalld or to send him a reinforcement of 10,000 Men, to maintain a defensive campaign only. The number has been promised tho' they know the number is not to be got, perhaps not the half, but this is a plan of Ld. North's, ~~[illegible]~~ that Clinton shd. be obliged to come home & Cornwallis have the Chief command in order to please the King with whom C. has become a mighty favorite since the insolent cruelties he has exercised in Carolina. The great push is to be made agt. Virga. & the Carolinas, but if Genl. Leslies expedition, which is chiefly design'd as a diversion to Genl. Gates, thereby to save Cornwallis & Chas. Town, proves fruitless — you may look on the War with respect to you as ended. The Bh. Cabinet are heartily sick of the War, & the only Bar to Peace & an acknowlegemt. of yr. Independence is the King; whose Will is Law in England. Be steady & true to yr. Selves & yr. Enemies can't hurt you; they will expend at least 25 Millions Sterlg next year, for which, if they get it, they must pay as good as 10 p Ct. interest. The Engh. papers tell us that S. Petrie who was so confidential at Passy; at the late Genl. Election went over to Engld. & became a candidate for the Borough of Hindon & is now a Petitioner against that Election, before the Ho: of Comons; is it to be credited that he wd. have ventur'd to do all this, unless his proceedings in Paris & at Passy had been under the directions & by the permission of the British Ministry ——

(No. 354) Le Baron de Bach or Wm. Lee 6th Dec 1780

It is said that the Engh. E. India stock has fallen 10 p. Ct. in consequence of the proceedings agt. Holland. The imprisonmt. of Mr. Trumbull Son to the Govr. of Connecticut & his examination at Bow Street you will see an Acct. of in the Engh. papers. 'Tis strange that Men of common Sense will accuse themselves & involve others by their voluntary confessions in a country where the Torture is not known to the Laws. 'Tis said that a strict search is makg. after all those mention'd by Mr. T——ll, but we do not hear that any of them have been yet apprehended. The conduct of yr. Enemies seems in every step to be felo de se, 'tis evident to every one that they have recd. infinitely more advantages from Spies & Traitors that have been permitted to be at large in Ama. & the inside of yr. councils than you have from the unimportant information you get from Engd. & by this last manoeuvre they set you the example how to act with such characters in Am. especially with those who were dispatch'd from Eng. to Maryd. for work in Secret while the B. Arms were openly in Action, as soon as the B. Cabinet decided on makg. their great push agt. Virga. & the Carolinas, that Maryd. may be prevented from giving any aid until it is too late. —— 54 has for years treated 10, as he did 90 &c., so that 10 could no longer bear it & quitted the field — 'tis some months since he left 129 & has nestled in the Swamps at 2022282914271320 22. — . 281420[illegible]21 has openly call'd 47182228142315 + 20 = 25202729 18282023 — 75 — 54. —

A Word to the Wise is enough. If things in 28 & 3 are right, would not 81 — 2521201214 + 75 — 1224232832 21 I. 161423142720 21 — 67 = 58 — or 77 — 28 ~~4~~ 1829 + 96, provided 1714 is ~~[illegible]~~ 25272425142721 34, 2012302324211416 1413 = 55 — 81 = 22182318 28 29 27 34 = 50 f. 1530 2221 34 — 29 27 30 28 29 14 13 = 55 & 28. I should think that advisable consult the proper freinds on it. —— 172 is still devoted to 10 — & inimical to 54 by whom offence has been given as mention'd before you went away as. 18242214 = 103 — 20 25 24 18 22 29 22 14 23 29. 22 now & then writes here, of whom 172 thinks as he formerly did.

The 7 Ulto. D'Estaing with Guichen his fleet & convoy left Cadiz to come to Brest with 45 Sail of the line, the Engh. fleet of 26 sail of the line under Darby was cruizing of Cape Finisterre the 16. Ulto., Sh. they join in Battle the Engh. Navy must receive an irreperable wound but the winds have been violent most of the last month & cheifly to the Et. & Nth. so that I hardly expect they will meet. Abt. 20 of the last Jamaica Fleet have been foundered at Sea & the Lyon a 64 Gun Ship is supposed to be founder'd also. With the highest Esteem & regard I have the Honor to be Dear Sir Yr. most Obliged Servt.

Le Baron de Bach

1780

Dear Sir. (No 3) (No 355) Anvers Dec. 10. 1780

Within this last fortnight you have been largely written to by the Cons.me — who I expect will leave 77 in 10 or 15 days compleatly fitted, but least he sh.d miscarry I will mention some things again via Nantz & Boston. Spain has a strong Fleet at least 30 Sail of the Line now at Cadiz but their whole force & attention is & will be applied to Gibraltar until it is taken of which there is as little prospect now as there was 12 Months ago. There is no doubt that with half the money they have already expended, the Spaniards might have bo't it of the Brit.h King & Ministry. France has now 10 Ships of the Line in the West Indies — Mess.rs D'Estaing & Guichen with 36 Sail of the Line & Frigates left Cadiz the 7th Ult.o to convoy 100 Valuable Merchantmen to the ports of France, we have not heard of their arrival. but we hear from Eng.d that Darby with 26 Sail of the Line saw them off Finisterre & gave away — He has suffered much by the violent winds w.ch makes us fear much for D'Estaing's Fleet, if he arrives well at Brest, they will have there above 50 Sail of the Line. Report says that Mons.r Rochambeau's Son came over for Succours & by the celerity with which an answer has been return'd we conclude that they will be sent as desir'd. The Northern League is now compleated, the Dutch & K. of Prussia hav.g acceeded to it. The associated Powers will soon make a public declaration of their plan to all Europe. when England must cease her depredations on the Dutch Commerce & quietly submit to France & Spain being fully supplied with Naval Stores or enter into a War with all Europe; For the death of the Empress Queen of Hungary will not make any alteration in this Northern League & if you had proper Ministers for the purpose it is supposed that this League might easily be prevail'd on to acknowlege the Independence of Am.a, especially if G.B. attempts in any manner to oppose or contravene the Northern System. — L.d Carlisle goes as Vice Roy & Eden as Secy. to Ireland, whether these negociators will be more successful in composing the complaints & greivances of Ireland, than they were in Am.a — time must show. The parties in Eng.d are not more friendly than usual & the spirits seem more chagrin'd than they were, by Palliser being made Gov.r of Greenwich Hospital & bro't into Parliam.t for the Borough of Huntingdon in the room of S.r G. Wombwell who is dead.

The new Parliamt. is much as the last & the K. as absolute as the Grd. Turk. He & his Ministers have determin'd on Continuing the War particularly agt. Amca. where the greatest exertions are to be made. It is said the opposition intend after Xmass to collect all their force & debate the propriety of continuing the Amn. War & also make a push agt. Ld. Sandwich.

Clinton has been promised a reinforcemt. of 10000 Men including the German & other recruits & the present plan is, to push the next campaign first against the Southern parts of Virga. & No. Carolina & then agt. the Northern parts of Virginia & Maryland, of this you will give the earliest notice to the Governors of those States. A sufficient is to be kept at New York which by little expeditions together with the incursions of their Indian Allies & others from Canada, the Enemy suppose will be sufficient to amuse the Northern States. The execution of this plan will no doubt depend on the success ~~of~~ of Ld. Cornwallis & the expedition under Leslie on James River & also on the movements the French Force may make to the Nthwards. By the capture of Mr. Laurens's papers the Enemy are in possession of every plan & design of Congress from the earliest period to the time of his departure from America. Such papers shd. not have been brôt or certain & effectual measures shd. have been taken to sink them in case of an accident.

They have, together with Mr. Trumbull's letter, shown Mr. John Temple in his true light to the Public endeavoring to get an appointment under Congress while he was in the pay of your Enemies. Mr. Trumbull is the son of the Govr. of Connecticut & has been taken up & imprison'd in Engld. on Suspicion of high Treason. We hear also that a Mr. Digges has been taken up examin'd & dismiss'd for want of proof agt. him. On the whole affairs in Europe seem to be much more agt. G. Britain than they have ever been yet, but we do not perceive that the operations of yr. ministers have in the least contributed to this alteration. How affairs stand in Amca. you are the best judge but it appears here, that your operations have been much embarrassed by the depreciation of your paper Currency, which surprizes us much, since the effectual remedy seems plain & simple & within the power of Congress.

Perhaps

Perhaps it is for this very reason, that the remedy has been overlook'd or so long neglected. A fund must be establish'd in Europe to be applied solely & most sacredly to the payment of the interest on yr. paper Currency. The fund here shd. be placed under the direction of three persons at least, who shd. be all men of worth, Honor & trustworthy & not a shilling shd. be touched without the draft is signed by all the three. These Comrs. shd. every three months ballance the Accts. & give several Copies to the public minister residing in the Country where the fund is establish'd to transmit to Congress & if upon examination of these Accts. ~~the~~ ~~[illegible] not deliver'd to [illegible]~~ he shd. find that one shilling has been applied to any other purpose than to the payment of drafts drawn from Ama. for discharging the interest aforesaid, or if the Accts. are not deliver'd to the minister within three or six weeks at farthest after the expiration of every three months, in either case the Minister with the approbation of any two or more of yr. Public Ministers in Europe, shd. be authorized to suspend one or all of these Comrs. & appoint others in their place until the pleasure of Congress is known. As these Comrs. shd. be Men of Character they shd. have genteel Salaries & if it was even £1000 Sterg. each pr. Anm., the great importance of the business woud well warrant it, at the same time they might be employed in other services for Congress.

The interest of yr. paper shd. be annually paid at the Continental or Public Treasuries in each State by drafts on the fund in Europe & the interest on bills emitted in any State according to the last plan publish'd by Congress, shd. be payable either at the Continental Treasury or any other public Treasury of either of the States. Such a plan regularly executed for a year, woud give a credited Currency to your paper equal to the Bank Notes of England or Holland & then you coud never be at a loss for the means of supplying yr. Army. The introduction of Specie into Ama. even of a hundred Million wd. not answer the purpose of a circulating medium of Commerce; because, during the War, it wd. be inevitably hoarded up, as what you have now certainly is, for there can be no doubt, of there being at this time, much more specie in Ama. than at any former Period. This fund in Europe must be establish'd & kept up by ~~loans~~ Borrowing until you can support it by remitting your Commodities. Excuse this detail, & if you find anything useful pray make use of it freely. Our friend 96 expects to hear from you soon

(No. 355) Le Baron de Back. Alias Wm. Lee.
~~[illegible]~~ Dec. 10th 1780

so carefully about what relates to him in 28 & 165. — Your former Minister Mr. Silas Deane, we are told, since his return to France has been continually employed in Invectives against his Country; according to him, America is ruin'd & must be subjugated by England; therefore all the aid that France gives is so much thrown away.

We are surprised at this, as he lives at Passy with your Minister & seems to be his favorite & prime Councillor. —

Mr. Deane adds also, that your grand Congress is composed of Fools & Knaves; we hope he has not experienced them to be so. I wish you every success, but you ought never to forget, that your security must depend on yr. own abilities & exertions & not on any foreign Aid.

With high respect & consideration I have the Honor to remain Yr. most Obliged & Obedt. Hbl. Servt.

Le Baron de Bach

No. 34

1780

Philadelphia December the 13th 1780

Dear Sir

Tho I am to complain of your silence, I take this opportunity of Remembering Myself to your friendship and beg leave of introducing to you Marquis de Laval, and Count de Custine Both of whom command a Regiment in the french army at Rhode island — These Gentlemen intend travelling to the Southward, and I think we must do every thing in our power for the officers of these auxiliary troops, such of them principally as hold an high Rank at their Court — Persuant to this duty I gave them letters of Recommendation for you, and assure you, My dear friend, that with the highest Regard and sincerest affection I shall ever be —

Your most obedient humble
servant Lafayette

Majr Henry Lee esq.

Honorable Richard Henry
Lee Esqr. &c. &c.
at Richmond or Chantilly

per favour of Mis
de Laval and Comte
de Custine

Novr 17th 1780

dec. 1780
Maj. Gen. Marquis
de La Fayette

Ein S. S. Mr (No 356) Dec - 18 - 1780

My dear Sir

My Mother's ill Health which has hitherto kept me from the Assembly, still continues, but if you think that the Session will be much longer, I will endeavour to join you after Christmas. [I should have been glad to have been with you to have given my Opposition to that unjust Law which makes the present depreciated Currency a tender in Discharge of all Debts & Contracts. I have been told that the Yeas & Nos were taken upon the Passage of that Law, if so, pray send me that Sheet of the Journal. I think however I could now name the greater Parter of the Friends to the Law.] My Absence from the Assembly compels me to be very troublesome to you, by throwing upon you the Business which I ought to do. But my present Situation, & the Importance of the Business which I now beg Leave to recommend to your Patronage will, I hope, excuse me to you. At present Fredericksburg is one of the most considerable Towns in this State, & from its extensive Intercourse with the back Parts of the Country, & a very considerable Commerce carried on by Water, is generally filled with disorderly Waggoners & licentious Sailors over whom there is no Restraint. Formerly the Peace of the Town was preserved, because the Prison being in the Town, Offenders were speedily punished by committing them to Prison. But now the Prison being twelve or thirteen Miles distant the disorderly are under no Fear of Punishment & Vice is daily gaining Ground in the Town. Neither is the Evil confined to Fredsburg, it extends to the adjacent Country; for the most infamous Characters, being under no Dread of Punishment for their Crimes, flock to Fredsburg from all Parts, establish tippling Houses, & deal with the Negroes for whatever they will steal & sell to them. The erecting the Town into a Corporation upon the Plan of the Petition would certainly remedy the Evil. Be pleased therefore to present it & push the Matter for us. It cannot take up much Time, especially as the Draught of a Bill is sent, which was done in Order to save you the Touble of drawing one. Perhaps the Aſsembly may think that such an Incorporation as that of Alexandria would suit Fredsburg; it would be entirely useleſs, for the Courthouse & Prison of Fairfax being in Alexandria the Justices of the Peace for the County are competent to all the Busineſs of the Town. In Fredsburg

it is different as I have before observed.
The Prayer of the Petition is only to be indulged
with the Means of establishing good Order
in the Town & Neighbourhood, & does not in
the smallest Degree infringe the Constitution
of the State.

My best Respects attend your
Brother. I am, dear Sir, with perfect Esteem

Your affectionate Friend
Mann Page

Mannsfield
Decr. 13th 1780

[See Jany 15th '81]

Man Page
(No 357)
~~No 367~~

Richard Henry Lee Esquire
at
Richmond

Favoured by
Chas Dick Esqr

Decr. 18. 1780
Mann Page Esqr.
(~~No 367~~.)

Extracts from the Trial of Capt. Landais

Questions by Capt Landais (to [illegible] Lee ~~question [illegible]~~) Did the honble. Mr Lee go upon 2d deck before you came and let me know that the people wanted to speak to me?

A. Not that I know of. Extract from N. Blodgets testimony

I dined in the Cabin one day when the honble A. Lee Esqr said it was a pity we could not have the water that we drank from a Scuttle cask appropriated for the Officers & passengers for in the common one, the sick and the well the lame and the lazy were constantly slopping, some dirty fellow enough to make one sick or words to that effect— The Captain replied that he ought to be contented to drink the same water with the Capt of the Ship— that he looked upon one as good as another that this water came from such a place (mentioning something disagreeable and indeed it stunk— much conversation ensued, such as I'll let you know that I am Capt of the Ship and I will be helped first at table. You shall know not pick the liver out of the dish, you shall take the first piece that comes to hand as I do. You shall not pick the prunes, out of the plate, but take them as they come ~~&~~ ~~he~~ this volly seemed to confound Mr Lee, what do you

means

mean says he, I dont remember of showing any indecent behavior at your table and no body ever disputed your being Captain of the Ship. I never was so used in my life I dont understand you — when you get on shore, said Capt Landais you may load your pistols as soon as you please — and said somethin about cutting ears). —

The people seemed to be uneasy about going to Philadelphia as they said there were cruisers that way & one of them Mr Bailey asked me whether I thought Boston was not best to go to — I told them that did not belong to us but to the Capt and that if they want advice they had better go to Mr Lee

Q. Ever hear Mr Lee talking with any Officer or man about it. ——

A. That man who mentioned to me about going to Boston went immediately to Mr Lee upon my advising to take Mr Lee's advice — What Mr Lee said I dont know

20th Decr 1780

Questions put by Captn Landais to Stephen Waters late Captns Steward

Q.— Did you tell me several times you did not know why the honble Arthur Lee was always wrangling with you, tho' you did every thing you coud to please him

A. — Mr Lee seemed to be uneasy & finds fault with one thing & another — because he cod not get Water as well as on Shore, he wanted fresh Water to wash in every day. I told Captn Landais I cod not give

(satisfaction)

satisfaction & I believed I must go forward.

Q. – did I send several times for you, for the Cook & baker when the honble Arthur Lee Esq: complained that nothing on table was eatable the hams were not done enough, the ducks too much – the Butter not yellow the bread too heavy & not done enough

A. – Yes Sir, you did.

Q. – Do you think the honble Arthur Lee Esqr. was treated as well as provisions could afford.

A. – Yes

Q – Did you see the honble Mr. Lee talk with any Body under the Qr. Deck when Pratt came to the door

A – No.

Questions by Captn. Landais to S. Blodget

Q. Did you ask my leave to bring goods for Mr. Lee

A. No – it was by my advice that 500 louis of Mr. Lee were invested in goods – I told him I could take it in my privilege and that it would be no damage to any body

Q. Were these goods to be sold for Mr. Lee's Interest

A. Yes

Q. Where was this conversation between Captn. Landais and yourself respecting his telling not to let him know that the Goods were on board

A – on board, at L'Orient; before he came aboard he told me he should not take notice of any thing that was done before he came on board because I told him that Dr. Winship's reason for not being in his Interest was for fear the Captn. would turn out the property he had on board –

Ext. from Comm.e Gillon's Letter to Capt. Landais dated L'Orient 12 June 1780

You are in honor & duty bound to directly take & keep command of the said Alliance

I moreover think that you are answerable for, that Ship if you do not directly take the command of her

Ex.t from A. Lee's letter to D.o It cannot admit of a doubt Sir, that an officer entrusted with ye command of a Ship, by a resolve of Congress is bound to keep, guard & defend such Ship, till he see a resolve of Congress devolving that trust upon another & consequently that it is your duty to keep command of the Frigate Alliance confided to you by a Resolve

Extract from the Trial of Captn. Landais, for Arthur Lee Esqr.

La Fayette's lett.r cont.d

The sum was at first divided between clothing & military Stores, but upon my undertaking to obtain 15000 stand of Arms & 100000 lb. of Powder it was determined that the Money be employed in getting 10,000 compleat Suits ready made

Some days after this I informed Dr. Franklin that the Prince Montbarry had promised to let us have the quantity of Powder & Arms mentioned

Upon an applicat.n from Dr. F. before my departure I had obtained that the Frigate appointed for my passage sh.d disembark [illegible] & take in Clothing the American M. sent his orders to Nantes, but tho I was some days retarded

[illegible] of the Ship & [illegible] be in danger of being lost by cutt.g the Cable & run.g her on shore Mr. A. Lee represent.g me the danger the Ship was in & the purport of his lett.r of the 25th ultimo I determined to sail as soon as possible

Mr. Lee's letter demonst.g the necessity of sailing, & seeing it myself, I sailed the 8th of July

Ext. from John Ross's Let.r to the Admiralty

At the same time I recommended in particular an application to the Minister for the Ariel as a proper Vessel to carry the whole Clothing & to proceed with the Alliance 13 Dec.r 1780

Ex.t from the Marquis la Fayette's lett.r to D.o Dec.r 16th 1780 Upon an application to the C. of France 3 Mill.s of their Livres were lent to the American Minister

[illegible] will you know that the same authority has given that command to some other person.

Capt. Landais Defence

After having received the two Letters from the Officers which are declaration in his favor & invitation to him to come on board & the opinion of the Hon. A. Lee Es.r & that of Com.e Gillon I wrote the following Letter to Lieut. Degge

Ext. from that Lett.r dat. June 12th 1780 I order you to keep the said frigate till I receive an Answer from his Ex.y to whom I wrote on the subject, you may assure all the Officers of my Comp.y & tell them & all the Crew that I will take the Command as soon as the answer will be arrived. I expect Dr. F. cannot deny it to me. unless he has an order to the contrary from C

Sign'd Capt. Landais

Perceiv.g the danger the part of the Crew would be taken by Capt. Jones & go on board the Ariel, or attempt to get ma

Treasury Office December 28th. 1780

The Honble. Mr. Arthur Lee appeared this Day at the Board of Treasury and Deposited with the Board the following Articles purchased for his use with the Public Money while he was the Minister of the United States at the Court of Versailles. Viz

Eighteen Knives with silver Handles
Eighteen Forks solid silver
Eighteen Silver Table Spoons
Twelve Silver Spoons of a lesser size
Eight Silver Soup Spoons

[illegible] an Order to the Mistress of the Hotel de Vendome in Paris to deliver to the Bearer his [illegible] and a Trunk containing China & Linnen.

Extract from the Minutes
Cornelius Comegys Clk

By Order

No 10 — Letters
to Arthur Lee
from his Correspondents
in Europe & G. Britain

These are to be
copied —

Recd for
the Plate
returned to the
Public

T.

Autographs
of Gl Washington
John Adams
Thomas Jefferson
James Madi=
=son ~~[illegible]~~

A letter of John Quin
=cy Adams to A. Lee
when the former
was only 14 or 15
years of age

(No 357)   Dec 20-1780

Sir

I have, by ye Request of ye Society of College taken ye Liberty to address ye inclosed Memorial to you. We flatter ourselves it will not fail to meet with ye Protection of ye Friends to Litterature, and we particularly hope, that it will experience your Favour & Patronage.

I trust Sir, no Apology is requisite for the Trouble we have imposed, as ye Benefits wh ye University may receive from your Assistance may be productive of ye most extensive Utility to our common Country.

I am Sir with great Respect

Yr most obedt Sert

J Madison

Wm & Mary Coll—
Decr 20th 1780—

J. Madison
letter 28th Decr 1780

Richard Henry Lee Esq.

at present in

Richmond

Dec. 28. 1780
Rev.d Mr Madison
Professor of Wm
& Mary College

Rev. Jas Madison
Dec 28th 1780
(No 357) (~~No 774~~)

Bishop Madison
No 771

1510
1150
1150

By Sir H. Clinton & Mariot Arbuthnot Esq.r &c. &c. — 1781 – Dec. 29

a Declaration

To the Inhabitants of the British Colonies on the Continent of N. America, now in rebellion of every Rank, Order & denomination, excepting always such persons who under the usurped forms of trial have tyrannically & inhumanly been instrumental in executing & putting to death any of his Majesty's subjects.

G. Britain having manifested the sincerity of her affectionate & conciliatory intentions in removing for ever your pretended grounds of discontent by repealing among other Statutes those relating to the duty upon tea, & the alterations in the Government of Massachusetts Bay, & by exempting for ever, not only the Continent, but the Insular Colo[illegible] from Parliamentary taxations, it is with much pleasure we make known [illegible] that we have received a Commission under the great Seal of G. Britain w.ch has [illegible] its Object the removal of distrusts by the Remission of Offences – the restoration [illegible] the benefits of an extensive Commerce – the enabling the Constitutional Officers of Government to reassume their functions that you may again enjoy your former local Legislatures & the confirmation of y.r rights, Liberties & Priviledges. The door is thus again thrown open (if happily you are disposed to avail yourselves of the opportunity it affords) for commencing negotiations w.ch may instantly terminate the miseries of your Country.

We do therefore by the authority in us vested, hereby invite all the Colonies in Rebellion seperately as such, or any associations of men therein, to depute proper persons (for whom on application safe Convoys shall be given) to make to us jointly or seperately or in our absence to our Council composed of the following members viz.t Right Hon.ble Charles Earl Cornwallis, His Excellency James Robertson Esq.r Cap.t General & Gov.r of the Province of N. York, Josiah Martin Cap.t General & Gov.r of N. Carolina, W.m Franklin Esq.r Cap.t General & Gov.r of the Province of N. Jersey, the Hon.ble Andrew Elliot Esq.r Lieut.t Gov.r of the s.d Province of N. York, W.m Smith Esq.r Chief Justice of the s.d Province of N. York, Frederick Smith Esq.r Chief Justice of the s.d Province of N. Jersey & John Tabor Kemp Esq.r his Majesty's Attorney General of the s.d Province of N. York; or to the General Officer commanding the King's troops in any of the Provinces all such propositions respecting the State of the s.d Provinces Modes or forms of Government, or touching the laws by w.ch they are affected & respecting such arrangements
[illegible]egulations as may tend to the Advantage & stability of the several provinces &
[illegible]ies & to a lasting Union of each of them respectively with G. Britain, upon the
[illegible]iples of the Constitution w.ch his Majesty's subjects shall be desirous to
[illegible]n, or lay them us before the King for his Royal Consideration & that of his
[illegible]t. And for the consolation of the friends of peace & the reunion of y.r
[illegible]s for the encouragement of all those who in future may adopt the
[illegible] & by their immediate exertions & example assist in accomplishing
[illegible]t. We declare it to be the intention of G. Britain by the blessing
[illegible]e interests of the Colonists as inseparably connected with her
[illegible] neither be left a prey to the rapacious avarice of y.r dancoter ger:
[illegible] insidious designs of y.r pretended friends & allies. And while y.r
[illegible] persevere in y.r integrity for y.e preservation of y.r Country, its Reli:
[illegible] to others of every order, who having so long ~~entered~~ listend to the
[illegible] war to peace, are enabled by their experience to decide on the folly
[illegible]e, our anxious desire for y.r immediate acceptance of this

invitation, as G. B. in this contest of Arms ever mindful of our descent & Connexion, ha spared what it was & still in her power to destroy & now only wishes as an affectionate parent, to rescue you from the cruel & tyrannical usurpations wch ye Leaders are struggling to support, for selfish & corrupt ends, & at ye risk of being delivered over to popish & arbitrary nations.

Having thus announced the benevolent purposes of our Commission, We do hereby further declare to the Inhabitants of Pennsylvania, the 3 lower Counties on Delaware N. Jersey, that part of N. York still in revolt, Connecticut & Rhode Island, separa as provinces or to any Associations of men therein who shall on or before th 1st of July next ensuing, declare ye abhorrence of ye rebellion, separate from [illegible] & afterwards demean themselves as dutiful & peaceable subjects of his M [illegible] Government, that we shall be ready to grant them pardon for all past & [illegible] & the full benefit of the kings Clemency before recited — We do also make the offers of pardon & benefits to the other Inhabitants of the more Southern & Easte Colonies in Rebellion, or to any associations of men therein who shall on or before ye 1st of Augst next ensuing declare & act in the manner aforesaid & afterwards persevere in ye like dutiful & loyal behaviour — If any shall be so hardy & desperate as to contemn the proffered Clemency of their Sovereign, ye liberality of ye Nation & ye means & mediation we now offer for effecting ye mutual reconciliation of Countrymen wth each other & the equitable adjustment & composure of yr differences & grievments, they are hereby warned of ye aggravation of such guilt & most earnestly implored to shun the punishment ordained by the laws of ye Country wch when restored to yr free Course will be inflected for yr treasonable offences And that these intimations wch so highly concern the people in the revolted districts may not be concealed from them, to ye danger & ruin of any person in ye future operations or at the final conclusion of ye war, We require all Officers civil & military, to be aiding & assisting with us in the publication thereof & in ye the execution of our Commission & of all the powers & matters therein conta

Given under our hand & Seals at the City of N. York the 29 Decr in the 21st year of his Majestys reign

H. Clinton (LS)
Mr Arbuthnot (LS)

Insidious Procla-
mation of the British
Commissioners
29th Decr 1780
=
Sir Henry Clinton
&
Mr Arbuthnot's
Proclamation
to the
Colonies in Rebellion.

Heads of Argument agt. the U.S. Quota of Virginia 178

The Quotas of 1780 & 1781, were increa[sed] from 16 to 18 tho during these two years the Enemy was constantly in possession of a part of the State, invading or ravaging the rest, so that besides the destruction of great quantities of Stores & Tob. [illegible] at the head of James River, & a variety of damage done to Individuals the Losses in all the Expeditions on the two Articles of Negroes & Tobacco amounted to negroes 20,000 Hhds of Tob. 16,000

[illegible] are estimated at [illegible] dollars a head [illegible] 20 dolls. [illegible] make the [illegible] loss sustained [illegible] two years by the People of Virg.a as

[illegible] 6,000,000
Tob.o 300,000
total 6,300,000 dols.

During this time, the Militia were almost constantly on duty, [illegible] their Plantations [illegible] trade was stopped, the produce of the Country was necessarily unsold & the value of it much diminished.

In this situation when their means of contributing in money

[illegible] other
[illegible] amount
[illegible], Congreſs enacted
a diminishing in
exceed the proportion
demanded of her, is

was a manifest in
justice

2d Whether money is no
longer in the State, & the consequence will
operate to render such
a basis of estimating
her in the present re
quisition utterly unequal
& inadmissible.

Then in the 3d place
the 450,000 [illegible] 6th
[illegible] the Quota is
founded are reduced
to 380,000.

which would make
a deduction of one
twentieth from her
proportion to the other
States.

By the best Estimate
that could be made,
the value of all the Sala-
ble produce of the State
last year amounted
£300,000

The State proposes
spend [illegible] 60
The Quota of
Congreſs is [illegible]
Both making £170,000
[illegible] than the whole
[illegible] produce
State. Therefore
schemes founded on
such Quotas are
[illegible] impracticable
to be complied.
That there
[illegible] must [illegible]

some time will be clear upon consider!

That trade is not yet in any degree restored so as to produce hard money

That there is yet no price for their produce — That it must require time for the annual Crop to be produced —

That no money as yet does come into the State, because when the Armies came to Virginia, the Impress took every thing thro the whole State for the use of the Cont.l Army & the Militia for which Certificates were given consequently the French were supplied from Baltimore with flower by contract & from Massachusetts to Connecticut & Pennsylvania with Cattle for hard money

It is a notorious fact that of the 500,000 dollars brot into the Treasury by Col. Laurens, not one Shilling was expended for the Army in Virginia but the property there was taken by force for Certificates, while the hard money was paid in Contracts in Philadelphia & on the North River.

Mr West to exert his faculties in immortalizing the conduct of the Ladies in Charlestown on parting with their Husbands & friends, when they were sent to St Augustine. It appears to me, that a conduct so noble, so virtuous & so patriotic as never to have been exceeded & seldom equalled, should be perpetuated by a pencil the most powerful & pathetic that the present age has produced. Such is the pencil of Mr West. You will oblige me, Sir, if you will give me such a description of that event, together with any anecdotes touching it, as you may think will aid the Painter in expreſsing it well. Should Mr West enter into the plan, such of the Ladies & Gentlemen as were present at that scene, & have good pictures of themselves would perhaps take the trouble of sending them to Mr West, in order that from the resemblance of the persons, the piece may be more interesting, at least for some generation. Your Nephews saild in the french packet, on Sunday last, in good health & spirits Please to make my best respects, acceptable to Mrs Rutledge —

Adieu A Lee

Edwd Rutledge Esqr
Charlestown, S. Carolina.

The value of these returns cannot be ascertaind as some of the Invoices are not yet received. But it is evident they go but a very little way in the payment of Meſs^{rs} R. Hortalez & Co Claim. Mr Francis has therefore in view as far as I can discover the following objects

1st To sell to the Continent, the Ship he came over in now lying at Portsmouth; or failing that to employ her, in transporting a ~~L~~ Cargoe to Europe, in part of the expected remittances 2^d To prepare Cargoes of tobacco in Virginia for two Ships he expects out on purpose to receive them. 3^d To procure as many other remittances for the reimbursment of his houses as he can. 4th To settle the amount of their cla[illegible]ther it is to be paid in France [illegible] on what terms.

On these points I shall give such

opinions, as have occurred to me.

It makes no difference to America whether the advance of these Supplies has been the bounty of Government or of Individuals, as to the justice & thankfulness with which payment ought to be made, when expected or demanded by those the Goods came from, consequently I think Mr. Francy should receive as satisfactory payments as we are able to make. Therefore my opinion as to the first object is — that the Ship lying at Portsmouth ought not to be purchased by Congress because I apprehend she is not well calculated for a Cruizer & we find by experience, that large Merchant Ships cannot be got to sea for the british Cruizers. Besides these reasons, I remember when at York, I saw the terms on which alone this ship could be sold & it was very clear then they were vastly too high — I have advised Mr. Francy to let this ship proceed ~~from~~ Portsmouth to South Carolina or Georgia, making the first safe port in either State & that the Continental Agents be directed to load her with Rice & dispatch her to France. To this he objects that the Ship is chartered from France to her discharging port in America & back to France at the Owners risque, but that the Owner will not consent to risque her from Portsmouth [illegible] her discharging port, to any second port, nor has he powers to bind him to such risque. I answer, that the Continent may insure her from Portsmouth to the port where she loads, where the Owners risque may recommence, in which he acquiesces & for further security it may be well done to order one of the unemployed continentl. Navl. Captains, well acquainted with the coast, to go in her with his Commission some officers & men, in order to take & man some prizes during the passage, for the Ship is said to sail tolerably well & mounts 20 Six pounders. If this plan is not adopted what can be done with the ship, she ought not to go back in balast, there is nothing to load her with in the eastern states, the middle ports are blocked up & nothing but Carolina & Georgia remain for her.

The 2^d^ & 3^d^ of Mr Francy's objects depend very much on the mode adopted in the 4th because if his claim is to be paid in France it is our business to provide those two ships with Cargoes & that I apprehend ~~it cant be~~ ~~[illegible]~~ is done, or indeed if the debt is to be paid in America the tobacco on hand may be assigned to him. I am averse to his appearing a purchaser of tobacco because it will have bad influence on the price already raised much too high by the rage for speculation. On the 3^d^ Article I observe that besides loading his two ships which are vessels of force we may assign him two or three of the ships that are loaded, & they may sail under the convoy of the others.

With respect to the fourth Article, I believe M. Francy is not yet possessed of the Invoices of the sundry Cargoes shipped for us by

Hortalez & Co. consequently he cannot establish the amount of their demand until he does receive those documents therefore this point must lay open, & he seems to join me in opinion that the Claimants will be satisfyd with the remittances I have mentioned, the remainder to be put on a footing of bearing interest under security of the U.S. until more convenient for them to pay.

With respect to the question, whether we will make payment in Europe or America, the answer depends much on the terms proposed & if I understand the proposition of Messrs. Hortalez & Co it is, that Congress should either take the Goods at their first cost with the usual charges of freight Insurance (if any was made) shipps. charges, Merch. Commissions, brokerige & interest upon the actual Advance, with a handsome commission or douceur to M. Beaumarchais himself to be paid in France or else receive the goods that arrive & allow him the full value of such

Articles at the current price in America & payable here, I should think it most consonant to reason & justice to pay as proposed in France, & if time be allowed to finish the payments at a convenient period, the most eligible mode for us to adopt; but if full remittances & payment is insisted on immediately, the last may be most for our interest, altho' I should suppose, least agreeable to them, & attended with the difficulties & suspicions that will arise about the settlement of the exchange & valuation of the goods, neither of which objections apply to the first alternative as if that is accepted, we must receive the Goods as they arrive & make remittances on the best terms we can, I should prefer a settlement in the way most pleasing to the parties on the other side, because I conceive it will be our interest to strengthen & increase our connection with people who have already evinced their ability to serve us.

Recollecting nothing further necessary for me to say, in these affairs

I remain &c &c

signed Robt. Morris

To the
Honble
The Commercial Committee

- Letter from Governor
the President of Congreſs dated
now on the files of Congreſs &
refer you to the enclosed
fair state of our
disbursements for the Continent
Whenever the books of our Auditors
shall be put under a proper course
of examination, many other Articles
of expenditure for the Continent
will doubtleſs be found which
have escaped the present hasty ex-
amination. By this state it appears
that we have answered for the
Continent since May 21. 1779

£ 4,404,440, 13 = ~~[illegible]~~

Dlls. 13,681,368 5/6

There are still very considerable
warrants out, which we have assumed
some of them partly unpaid & some
wholly so".

~~[illegible]~~

This requisition (May 19, 1780)
could not be complied with in point
of time, for reasons explained in my

248

letter to your Excell
30, 1780. With that we
ney & bills 1,830,2
shall be sent on
up our whole quo ... 00 dolls, un
less the resolution of Ja 15th was meant to appropriate this requisition to the supply of the military chest in the southern department. there is no other balance due from the state whereon that resolution can operate.

On receipt of the resolution of Dec. 11th (1779) notice was given to the continental quarter-master that we should be ready to give him orders for the grain which was then coming in under an Act of Assembly which had laid a specific tax in grain. What would be the amount of this was not then well known. We since find that what we allotted to Continental use, amounted to about 80,000 bushels of short forage, partly this has been received & part are collecting for the continental quarter-master & Commissary to the posts recommended by Genl. Washington. This no doubt

have to refer to the
No. 1. made out fr
therein referred
unable to see
from Dec. 13. 17[illegible]
as to the state [illegible]
vice as above, [illegible] numbers are
entered as they marched the 2d May
following. To these may be added
something upwards of 300 new recruits then engaged for the war, of whom
no return having been regularly
made, they are not entered. The Assembly
which met in May of the present year
passed one act for sending 2500 Militia
into the field which has been carried
into execution & another for raising
by way of draught one fifteenth of the
whole number of our Militia, which
after all probable deductions they count
upon as 3000 men. these are to serve
as regulars till Dec. 31. 1781, & will
be rendezvoused about the last of
the ensuing month.

part of the subsequent
No. 2&3. Large orders
here of Beef, Corn
s of Specifics
ts to the troops
marching to the southward. Our endeavours indeed have been much disappointed by the insufficiency of our revenue to answer these & the calls of money for other purposes. Our ultimate dependance for supplying deficiency in the articles of meat, flour, salt, short forage & rum is in the Act No. 4. herewith transmitted.

The Executive therefore immediately ordered nearly the whole of their troops which had been reserved for the particular defence of the State to join the continental army to the southward. That some idea may be formed of the proportion of their quota which this addition effected, I beg absolute property? Did not the said William Bird shortly after he had made his said Will deliver it into the keeping of the said Newman where it remained untill seven days before his Death? or how long did it remain with the said Newman? Upon what occasion & in what manner did it get out of the said Newman's possession? did not the said Thomas write to the said Newman the letter annexed to this Bill? was it done by the direction of the said William Bird & in the presence of the of the two Witnesses whose names the said Thomas has put to the said Letter? Was not the said Thomas present when your orator brought the same to his father? Did not his father Order him to put it away in his desk or some other place of security & did he not do it accordingly? What has become of it? Did not the sd Thomas apply to the said Drew on the morning of the day on which his father Died to draw him a deed of gift for the whole or the greatest part of his said Father's Estate. If [illegible] Will had been destroyed or cancelled by his Father as he was an only child what occasion was there for such a Deed? Had not the said Thomas the said Will in his pocket when he made application & if not where was it then & when did he come by it? Was the said Will in being at & after the Death of the said Willi[illegible] before the Death of the sd Wm Bird at n[illegible] manner & before whom? Hath neither of the said Defen[illegible]en the said Will since the death of the said William. Did not the said Defendants or one of them or some other person destroy or cause the same to be destroyed in the evening of the same Day on which the said William died Or did not they or one of them or some other person destroy or cause the same to be destroyed at some other time or place, & if they or either of them or some other person did, at what time in what manner & at what place was it done or if it was not otherways destroyed was not the said Will put into the Coffin either by one of the Defendents or some other person & buried with the said William Bird? Was not the said William Bird for some time before his Death ~~from~~ from the infirmities of old age unable to walk or help himself? Could he at the time the sd Newman brot his Will him have got from his bed to his Desk or any other place wherein the said Will may have been put? Was not the s William

Bird's understanding greatly impaired from the infirmities of old Age? and whether his sending for the said Will if he did send was not at the importunity of the said Thomas And that your Orators by a decree of this Court may have the said Will on being produced to be proved & admitted to record or if destroyed the contents thereof established and a deed of Settlement made by the said defendants agreeable to the purport thereof & be relieved in all & singular the premises according to Equity & good conscience, may it please your Worships to grant a writ of Subpœna

A Copy

Test

Robert Graham Clk

Le Ministre Plénipotentiaire de France n'ayant pas été informé jusqu'ici par le Congrès de la fin de ses délibérations sur les ouvertures si importantes qui ~~fait~~ font depuis plus de trois mois l'objet perpétuel de ses représentations, Il a lieu de presumer que les résolutions qui y sont relatives n'ont pas encore été arretées. Des délais si longs et si peu naturelle dans une matière si claire et dans une conjoncture que acquiert autant de célérité et qui interesse si essentiellement les Etat Unis ont inspiré au Soussigné l'appréhension, qu'il ne se soit élevé quelque doute soit sur le fond des affaires, soit sur la manière de procéder, soit sur les dispositions et les vues du Roi, et comme les instructions du dit Ministre portent de ne rien dissimuler au Congrès de ce qui peut être utile aux interete des Etats Unis, Il demande la permission de mettre sous ses yeux le résumé des objets les plus essentiels qui lui paroissent mériter attention dans le cours ulterieur des délibérations. Il est notoire que l'objet direct et essentiel de l'Alliance subsistant entre sa Majesté très Chretienne et les Etats Unis est de maintenir efficacement absolue et illimitée des dits Etats tans en matière de gouvernement que de Commerce, et par consequent les droits territoriaux inhérens à la souveraineté. C'été le but auquel tendent constament tous les efforts et tous les demarches du Roy. C'été pour y parvenir et pour procurer aux peuples de l'Amerique la jouissance de cette précieuse independance et la cessation des maux et des dangers sous lesquels une guerre vive et opiniatre les fait gemir que sa Majesté a entrepris une guerre difficile et dispendieuse contre l'Angleterre, sans aucune vue d'interret personel et en se refusant même aux avantages que les Etats Unis ont paru prête à lui accorder. Elle a déja donné des preuves éclatantes que son amitié ne se borne pas même a la simple observation de ses engagements. Elle est en effect disposée a donner aux Etats Unis toute l'assistance compatible avec la situation de de ses propres affaires et avec les conjontures générales, et Elle regarde les interrêts des Etats Unis comme les siens propres dans tout ce qui est relatif à l'objet de l'Alliance et conforme aux principes invariables sur lesquel ses liaisons réciproques avec les Etats Unis sont fondées.

C'est par une ſuite de son attention à éxécuter littérallement le Traité d'Alliance, qu'Elle n'a pas perdue un moment pour informer le Congres des ouvertures relatives a la pacification projettée en l'exhortant a prendre sans délai à cette négociation la part que la dignité et les interrets des Etats Unis éxigent Elle lui a réiteré d'ailleurs la promeſſe qu'elle ne traiteroit point avec l'ennemi commun sans établir pour condition premiere et eſſentielle, l'aſſurance de l'indépendance conformement aux ſtipulations du Traité d'Alliance. Sa Majesté a chargé en même tems son Ministre Plénipotentiaire de faire part au Congres de differentes considerations rélatives a la circonstance et particulierement de lui observer que l'Alliance n'étant pas victorieuse ne peut dicter la loi a l'ennemi commun. Le Soussigné a éxécuté ces ordres soit de vive voix soit par écrit. Il est donc évident que sa Majesté ne desire que le fondement d'une paix honnorable et ſolide conforme aux stipulation du Traité d'Alliance. Elle écarte toute idée de conquête et d'acquisition territoriale pour Elle même afin de remplir promtement ce but Salutaire et ses engagemens. Elle est disposée a continuer la guerre avec vigueur, si l'ennemi commun se refuse au ſystême pacifique que sa Majesté a annoncé à tout l'univers et que les Etats Unis ont adopté en ſignant l'Alliance. Mais dans le cas où la persévérance de la Cour de Londres à vouloir ſoumettre ou conquérir l'Amérique prolongeroit les calamités de la guerre, Sa Majesté se trouvera libre de concerter avec les Etats Unis toutes les mesures ultérieures aportées à ce nouvel ordre de choses et conformes aux interrêts respectifs des Alliés et de la cause commune. C'est ainsi que le Roi remplit et se propose de remplir les devoirs resultans des Articles 1 et 8 du Traité d'Alliance; en préſſant d'un coté les Etats Unis de

participer à la

la négotiation qui peut conduire à la conclusion d'une trève et d'une paix, en faisant cause commune avec les dits Etats et en mettant d'une autre côté les deux Alliés en mesure de s'assister mutuellement de leurs bons offices de leurs conseils et de leurs forces, selon l'exigence des conjonctures, enfin en montrant sa persévérance conformement à l'Article 8 dans la résolution de ne pas poser les armes jusque à ce que l'independance aura été formellement ou tacitement assurée mais cette derniere stipulation limitant les engagemens de sa Majesté sur cet objet a l'époque même de cette reconnoissance, si l'Angleterre souscrit immediatement a cette condition essentielle; sa Majesté très Chrétienne aura relativement a la confection de la paix. Il résulte de toutes ces observations 1°. Que le Roi s'est engagé a procurer par la voye des armes aux Etats Unis l'assurance de leur indépendance, et que sa Majesté est fidele à remplir cette obligation et même disposée a leur prêter des secours aux quels Elle n'est pas obligée par le Traité. 2°. qu'Elle n'a pas pris d'autres engagemens que ceux ex-primés dans les stipulations de ce Traité. 3°. que les Etats Unis n'ont ni titre ni droits d'exiger rien au delà, et que s'ils veulent la porter à des engagemens ulterieurs, ce ne peut être que volontairement de sa part et en unissant les conseils réciproques conformement a l'expression de l'Article 1er du Traité et ainsi qu'il convient à de bons et fideles Alliés; dans ce cas même il est impossible de prévoir la situation des affaires et des esprits en Europe, ni de juger quelles mesures pourra exiger de la part de sa Majesté le soin important de maintenir sa réputation et le systême d'équité et de modération dont Elle a fait le principe fondamental de son regne. Ces égards paroissent surtout dus à un Allié lorsqu'il a contracté des obligations ~~gratuit~~ gratuites sans aucune réciprocité d'avantages. 4°. En réunissant les énonciations des articles 11 et 12 on voit que les succès de la Guerre pouvant seuls fixer le sort des Empires; il a été trouvé impossible lors de la confection du Traité d'Alliance de déterminer les possessions que les Etats Unis pourroient obtenir à la paix qu'en consequence la garantie de la France n'a pu être que conditionelle et éventuelle à cet égard; qu'Elle n'est tenue maintenant ~~égard~~ a aucune garantie particuliere relativement à ces mêmes possessions soit réelles soit prétendues et que cette obligation ne commencera qu'à l'Epoque à la quelle les possessions des Etats Unis auront été constatées par la cessation de la guerre.

4°. Enfin il est indispensable d'ajouter à ces considerations, que lorsqu'il survient quelque doute sur les expressions, l'étendue et l'application des stipulations d'un Traité, les loix de la raison et de la justice universelle ainsi que les regles d'une bonne et fidele Alliance décident qu'un Allié n'a pas le droit de l'interpreter arbitrairement et unilateralement; que l'entreprendre seroit à la fois offenser la dignité et détruire la confiance de son Allié; qu'aucun d'eux ne peut en effet s'arroger la dictature dans des liaisons qui doivent être égales et réciproques; que ce n'est que par une explication amiable et par un concert formel que ces doutes peuvent être levés et le sens précis des Traités determiné; qu'enfin cette methode deviendroit encore plus indispensable s'il arrivoit que les prétentions d'une des parties ne se fondassent que sur des inductions éloignées sujettes à discussion et à contradiction ~~éloignées~~ et tendissent à altérer le systême essentiel et fondamental d'une Alliance. Le Ministre Plenipotentiaire de France est dans la pleine confiance que le Congrès des Etats Unis connoissant les loix des procedés et les égards que les Souverains se doivent mutuellement les observera dans sa conduite avec sa Majesté très Chrétienne, mais la conjoncture importante, critique et pressante où les affaires de l'Alliance se trouvent dans le moment actuel impose au soussigné Ministre le devoir sacré de contribuer autant qu'il est en lui à accelerer les resolutions du Congrès à prevenir tout mal entendu et tout sujet de mesintelligence, à preserver l'harmonie la plus parfaite et l'uniformité de vues et de sentimens concernant l'accomplissement des stipulations salutaires de l'Alliance et à tromper ainsi l'attente de l'ennemi commun qui fonde desormais ses principales esperance sur les divisions qu'il s'attache à fomenter. Enfin l'un des objets du present memoire est de constater solemnellement la conduite fidele et amicale du Roi dans cette conjoncture, sa Majesté esperant que la connoissance de cette conduite confirmera les Gouvernemens et les Peuples de l'Amerique dans les sentimens de confiance que les procedés de sa dite Majesté leur ont deja inspiré. Ce n'est qu'en remettant ainsi sous les yeux du Congrès les principes indubitables énoncés cy dessus que le Ministre

Plenipotentiaire de

with the United States Cr

By Advances on Contract, Abstract No. 3.	841,633.30
By Sundry Advances as pr Abstract No. 4.	1,052,751.86
By Secret Committee Acct of Mily Stores Abstract No. 5.	160,601.26
By profit & loss Acct. Abstract No. 6	46,495.84
By Contingt. Expences Abstract No. 7.	1117.65
Dlls.	2,102,600.1.

Dr. The Secret Committee in Acct.

To the Treasury of the U. S. for the amount of Sums paid to their Orders in favor of Sundry persons & charg.d to them in the Treasury Books, as pr Abstract herewith No. 1.	2,082,675.25
To Drs. not charg.d on the Treas.y Books	7,548.
To the Marine Committee for this amount rec.d from that Com.e as pr Abstract No. 2	12,376.66.
Dlls.	2,102,600.1.

Dissent:

Because making the Treasury Notes Bills money to be emitted a tender for the payment of debts, at their current value, is essential to justice & honesty, & fully adequate to every good & honest purpose of the Emission

Because making them Treasury Notes to be emitted a tender for debts ~~[illegible]~~ formerly ~~previously~~ contracted, without a due allowance for depreciation is enabling Debtors to defraud their Creditors of as much as what they fairly owe, as the real difference may be at the time of ~~the~~ tender, between the value of the money tender'd, & that for which the contract was made

Because such a Law is authorising & even enforcing fraud; corrupting the morals of the people; destroying all confidence between Man & Man; & perverting the very end of Legislation: which is to repress wrong & enjoin right. And being directly destructive of Justice subverts one of the most sacred Articles of our Bill of rights which declares, That no free Government, or the blessings of Liberty can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice.

Because ~~it~~ as it is confessed ~~cannot be denied~~ that a Law to oblige a man to take 20 shillings for a just debt of an hundred & fifty pounds, is ~~the [illegible]~~ such an outrage upon honesty that it would be scandalous for any member of the community to avail himself of it. the continuing to pass Laws for such a purpose, is as disgraceful ~~[illegible]~~ to the Legislature as it is pernicious to the people.

Because by authorising a fraudulent payment of debts among our Citizens we shall give just cause of complaint to the subjects of our illustrious Ally the King of France and to all other foreigners who trade among us, by which the Commerce of this State may be ~~very materially injured~~ must be essentially injured

Because we cannot assent to what is asserted, that the general voice of the people calls for this Law, as ~~[illegible]~~. it would be the highest reflection upon ~~the [illegible]~~ those we represent to suppose that they desire that which is apparently unjust, (*) ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ (*) But if the people could possibly possess ~~[illegible]~~ such depravity ~~[illegible]~~, it would be the indispensable duty of the Legislature to restrain & correct it.

(*) and we are happy to find ourselves confirmed in this good opinion of our countrymen, who actuated by a spirit different from what prevailed in ~~[illegible]~~ by the practice of the Senate this Law do make allowance for depreciation.

Because it is not ~~giving~~ enabling the people to pay their debts, as is pretended; but evidently empowering a shameless debtor to defraud his just creditor, by not paying his debt.

Because the ambiguity of the tender will beget an infinity of Law suits & disturb the Peace of the whole community.

Because ~~such an attempt~~ a Law evidently tending to corrupt the morals of the people, & exposing Orphans Widows & other helpless persons who subsist upon the interest of their money, to be reduced to absolute beggary for the benefit of those who are possessed of their property, is ~~a~~ crying ~~a~~ sin, that may call down the vengeance of a justly offended Deity upon this unhappy Country.

Because ~~we conceive it~~ to be the grossest of all absurdities, that this ~~[illegible]~~ just ~~war~~ in which we are engaged is to be supported by a regular system of injustice & the tears of helpless Orphans & Widows.

Because two ~~[illegible]~~ amendments were offered to the ~~Law~~ Bill by which ~~would have~~ the Treasury Notes to be issued might have been made a ~~[illegible]~~ Tender for their just and real value or the interest stopt on refusal as the former Laws had more equitably directed which would have qualified the mischiefs ~~justly~~ truly to be apprehended from it; which amendments were refused, & the full blown evils of this Law let loose among the people.

Because we cannot comprehend how making this money a legal tender ~~to~~ in discharge of all debts, can give it any additional credit, since it is confessed that in its depreciated state, no man can tender it without forfeiting all claim to honor & honesty. A quality which if used would occasion a total loss of character cannot be of any value.

138
60
240
70
310

177
72
66
315
630
210
840

275
374
444
245
1338
4000
1680
7062
14038

1797
6
1178.2
589

13 2¾
/13

1000.623.600
600
3,800

576
342
374
376
1216

327
598
176

List of Debts due F. L. Lee [illegible]

Continental certificates [illegible] in specie	£ 520
Due from the Counties £630 ster. at 33⅓	840
Do. in Currency	56..14
from my Father's Estate £200 with 2 years int.	470
from Sundries tob.o 14000 lb at 20/	143
from the State of Virg.a	43
Cash in hand	80
	£2209..14..0
Due from F. L. L. except some small sums, fully to answer which debits are left out	431
	£1809..14..0 due to F. L. Lee

A Monsieur
Monsieur de Rée
a Paris

Marechal de
Mouchy

W

M. le m^{al}. et m^{ad}. la m^{alle}. de Mouchy prient monsieur de Rée de leur faire l'honneur de venir diner chez eux Jeudy 30. de ce mois.

No.4.(d.)

When a conduct of premeditated perjury shameless perfidy & unexampled cruelty on the part of G. B. during the present war had so much exasperated the minds of the People of the United States that it was apprehended they would proceed to ~~[illegible]~~ retaliation which if once commenced in anger might ~~[illegible]~~ be carried to extremities the most horrible; the Congress ~~to prevent by all possible means [illegible]~~ ~~in extremity~~, ~~[illegible] of carrying on the war~~, opposed addresses an exhortation ~~of~~ forbearance, & by a farther trial by examples of lenity & generosity to recal their Enemies to the practice of humanity amid the calamities of war. In consequence of this neither the Congress of the United States nor any of the States apart have ever exercised or authorized the exercise of the right of retaliation.

Their Enemies however continued ~~to give them ample cause for~~ ~~retaliation~~ their Barbarities till the ~~fortune~~ face of war turning

against them just one of their Armies
& a multitude of other prisoners into
~~our~~ of the States power, from that time till lately
their conduct towards those Citizens of the
United States whom they have made pri-
soners was less stained with atrocious
insolence & inhumanity.

But since they have found that
all the efforts & arts of their Commissio-
ners, could neither intimidate nor seduce
the Congress nor the People of the United
States, they have become outrageous
& in that spirit have published a
proclamation which contains ~~[illegible]~~ the follow-
ing brutal menaces, & which they have
already begun to execute by desolation
& murders wherever they can approach.
It is therefore manifestly the Enemy's
policy to disgust the People of America
with their alliance with France by con-
vincing them that instead of sheltering
them ~~Country~~ from ~~its f former~~ future miseries
it has accumulated additional cala

calamities upon their Country.

Or disappoint their purpose. To stop the progress of those cruelties & the Commissioners submit to your Excellency's consideration two measures which in their opinion are most likely to answer these ends.

1st That the Court of France should announce to that of Gt Britain, that unless this declaration of its Commissioners is formally renounced, & the cruel method of carrying on the war effectually stopped, this Court will join with the United States in the severest retaliation.

2d That a powerful fleet of 30 or 40 sail should be immediately sent to the Coast of America, to support this declaration & secure a naval superiority over the Enemy in those Seas.

The Commissioners suggest this measure as appearing to them to be the most sure & effectual means of distressing the Enemy, destroying her Commerce, humb humbling her pride & reducing her to the necessity of suing ~~[illegible]~~ for peace. upon this naval superiority in these Seas must depend, the valuable Commerce of their Islands & the Islands themselves. The difficulties of provisioning a fleet at such a distance or of repairing it in case of any accident augment with the number to such a degree that it seems impossible for the Enemy to support 30 or 40 sail of the line in that quarter & therefore tho' they are able to meet & even outnumber Count D'Estaings fleet yet against the proposed ~~it~~ augmentation it is conceived they could not contend. ~~must of necessity give up all contest.~~

The Commissioners hope the speedy assistance & reparation received by Count D'Estaings fleet, will shew the advantages which this Country must enjoy in carrying on the naval war on a coast friendly ~~[illegible]~~ to her & hostile to her Enemy. And these advantages they trust will in future be much more sensible, because the appearance of the fleet this time was sudden & unexpected, & the last season in that particular part of the Country was the most unfavorable that had been known for many years had not been recalled, therefore He was in duty bound to signify to Mr. S. that he wd. oppose those of his powers from Mr. Lee that should interfere with them. And this too after seeing acknowledging that Mr Lee's deputation did not include them. Yet Mr. Williams professes, that he does not chuse to meddle with matters that occasion dispute & ill-humour.

To prevent disputes with Mr. S. he began to question the validity of his appointmt. To prevent disputes; he concealed & misstated the powers given him. To prevent disputes he assumed to himself not only the disputed power over Ships of war & prizes, but the whole of the commercial Agency. He had acted exactly the same with the late Mr Morris. He found him as commercial agent in possession of the sale of prizes. He ~~forced a [illegible]~~ raised a dispute about it & by the authority of Dr. Franklin & Mr. D. he wrested it from him in the case of Weeks's prizes; And at last, to prevent disputes, as he says in his Letter to me, he took the whole of that unhappy Gentleman's powers, into his own hands.

He hopes the Gentlemen will enable them to do their business unmolested, yet it appears from his own account, that he is the molester of others & that no one has meddled with him in the least. To me he pretends, that the reason for his commencing this dispute with Mr Schweighauser was a report upon change that he was dismissed as a faithless unworthy Servant, upon wch his friends condoled with him, & others seemed (they seemed only) to look on him with less degree of respect. He knew he says this was a false report, because the Commissioners had not recalled him. What then had he to do, but to tell his condoling friends, that they might comfort themselves for the report was false. The tender interest they took in what concern them would have prompted to have contradicted such a calumny very speedily. And tho the apparent diminution of that degree of respect due & to be paid to so great a personage as him self, was certainly a very serious matter yet why he should in consequence proceed to shew actual disrespect to Mr S. & Mr Lee by supposing the latter had deputed illegal powers or that the former w^d exercise them, is to me incomprehensible. A foolish report, or an imaginary diminution of respect, seems a sufficient ground for Mr Williams to offer an actual affront to others by ~~putting~~ impertinent questions. ~~to them~~ But indeed he has very distinctly explaind himself to Dr Franklin, when he says — "it is now time to have full authority, or none at all". That any one else shoud have any power whatever is a molestation & greevance to Mr Williams. He must have all or none. He is not content that the Commissioners shoud have made him their Agent, & that Dr Franklin & Mr Deane shoud have let him have more than a million of the public money unaccounted for; they must depose the person appointed by the commercial Committee assume the power of appointing him as commercial Agent also, & then, when every one else is wronged & affronted to gratify his unbounded avarice ~~& his~~ ~~& his~~ Vanity, there will be an end on his part of all disputes.

That so inconsiderable a person as Mr Williams shoud have so much pre-

presumption would be unaccountable, if we had not seen Dr Franklin's Letter to him. Because Mr Deane sometimes consulted with him, it was sufficient to give validity to all his orders without the knowledge or concurrence of the other Commissioners, & because he took it for granted that his Nephew was acting ably & uprightly, it was a sufficient justification of his doing whatever he pleased without any orders at all. When Dr Franklin chose to set such an example of disobedience to Congress who had vested the powers of the Commission in three not in one, & to give such encouragement to the vanity & licentiousness of a young man, it is not wonderful, that disorder, prodigality & private schemes should have pervaded all the public business. That Mr Deane should have introduced little tricks into the great business with which we were charged, that ~~he~~ should have converted his public trust to his private emolument is not surprising because it was consistent with his known character; but he would never have been able to carry that disposition into execution, had he not been assisted by Dr Franklin, from behind the shield of the great name of the latter, the former like the little warrior of old, launched with effect his envenomed shafts.

A. Lee